



Ask, Father James:

Be ‘salt’ and ‘light’

This is the mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ to us in Matthew 5:13-16. He gave this mandate right after teaching the principles of living the beatitudes as disciples and the church. Now, what does Jesus mean by; “Be salt and light?” Jesus means that as disciples, we should not be afraid to penetrate the world around us even though we live in a world that was faced with various forms of decay and darkness. The tendency in us is to want to hold back and not dissolve into the broth or the darkness that needs some sweetness and illumination. By this mandate, Jesus challenges you and me to be infectious as the salt is to the taste buds of the world and be illuminating as light is to darkness. Like salt and light, our spirituality should permeate the entire person and let God be praised by our faith and good works.

We can come to the point where we have given up our standards and now stand for nothing. If we no longer stand boldly and faithfully for Christ and Christian values, we become worthless to him. Less than worthless. Jesus says: Let your light shine!

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