

We begin a four-week emphasis called *War of the Worlds* with the basic call that is found at the heart of the teachings of Jesus. “You are the light of the world,” Jesus says. The purpose of your life is to illuminate the love of the God who created you. Every word we speak, every thought we consider and every action we take should be done with this fundamental call in mind.

What do you think it means to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth? In the context of your everyday life, what are some of the ways you might live as a “light” for others?

In verse 13, Jesus talks about salt losing its saltiness. Currently, how would you gauge the vitality of your spiritual life? What is one thing you can do this week to be renewed in your walk with Jesus?

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Yesterday we started the week with what was described as “the basic call that is found at the heart of the teachings of Jesus.” Being the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world” is reminiscent of God’s earlier words to Abram in Genesis 12 when God says, “All peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Romans reminds us of the tension we find in living out that call.

This past weekend we talked about how we should expect to experience tension in living out our faith in a world broken by sin. Do you find encouragement in the fact that any tension you may feel is a normal part of following Jesus in a world broken by sin?

How do you manage any conflict you feel in this area of your faith? What is one thing that has helped you in that process?

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Psalms 139 is well known for the way it speaks of how intimately and completely God knows us. Even before we take our first breath, the Psalmist writes in verse 13, “You knit me together in my mother’s womb,” and in verse 15, “My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place.” God knows us inside and out, faithfulness and failures alike.

Knowing when to stand for truth means that we must first become familiar with what Paul describes in Philippians 4 as “true, noble, right, pure, lovely, excellent and praiseworthy.” In your own life, how has God helped you to grow in your understanding of the truth? How has your understanding of God, of yourself and your relationship with God been changed?

Spend a few minutes praying the words from today’s scripture as you recommit yourself to growing in truth.

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The story of King David’s sin of committing adultery with Bathsheba while her husband Uriah was off to war is a well known portion of scripture. It is a story of a true spiritual hero’s fall. Yet it also is one of the most remarkable stories of redemption in all of scripture as David confesses his sins, repents of his evil ways and renews his commitment to live as “a man after God’s own heart.”

If we are to be the kind of people who “desire truth” and seek the wisdom of the Lord, we must also cultivate the humility that craves a clean and pure heart. Trusting in God’s grace, we continually return to God in repentance.

How clean is your heart today? Is there anything in your life that God is inviting you to walk away from so that you may again be made “whiter than snow”?

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