



“The Gospel is Good Enough”

Matthew 5:13-16 | 01.23.22

Sermon Recap

- The statement, “We’ve got to do something to attract more people,”¹ implicitly suggests the belief that the gospel is not good enough on its own—that it needs to be supplemented with programs, activities, and events. The paradigm must shift to help us reclaim the belief that the gospel is good enough to transform our lives and communities.
- Research indicates that young adults are interested in belonging to communities of faith that focus on transformation—personal transformation, and transformation in the surrounding community.
- Research indicates that young adults want to be a part of communities of faith that are not afraid of having difficult conversations or engaging in ministries of social justice. Their concept of the gospel is largely based upon how Jesus defines his ministry as proclaiming good news to the poor, release of the captives, setting the oppressed free, and proclaiming the “year of the of the Lord’s favor” (i.e., economic equality; Luke 4:16-30).
- The world is waiting for the Church to be the Church. The world wants and needs the Church to be salt and light. And Jesus states that when we are committed to being salt and light, the world will see our good works and give glory to God.

¹ More specifically, churches often say, “We’ve got to do something to attract more young people...”



Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What is the first thing you can remembering purchasing on your own?
2. In the sermon, Pastor Jonathan quotes a church leadership expert who claims, “What you get them with is what you keep them with.” In other words, “attractively based ministries” tend to condition us to be consumers rather than servants. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? What are your thoughts?
3. As a group, reflect on what it would look like to shift away from programs, events, and activities to ministries that are highly focused on transforming lives and communities by the power of God’s Spirit. What are the most transformative ministries you have personally witnessed or be a part of?
4. Jesus uses the images of salt and light to describe how we as disciples are supposed to witness to our faith. How do these images speak to you? How do these images challenge you to grow in your witness?
5. How have you witnessed God’s grace recently?
6. How can we pray for you?

Reference Tools

Rainer, Thom S. and Rainer III, Sam S. *Essential Church*. 2008. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/young-people-say-disconnect-keeps-them-from-church-11635163200>