

SHINE BRIGHTLY

LESSON 2: RED LETTER BUSINESS

The spiritual life is the life of Christ reproduced in the life of the believer by the power of the Holy Spirit in obedient response to the Word of God.

– DR. HOWARD HENDRICKS

CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

Harvey is sold out for Jesus! He works as an HR assistant and helps with compliance for the company's 530 employees. He is very outgoing and loves people. As part of his natural conversation, he references and acknowledges his Lord in everything he does. There have been a few complaints from some of the employees about Harvey's rhetoric that includes his Lord. Jane, his boss, and the CPO of the company has heard a number of these complaints and knows the individuals complaining are adversarial to the Christian faith. As a Christian herself she does need to address these concerns as they are mounting up.

- Q.** How would you counsel Jane as she addresses these concerns?
- Q.** How would you counsel Harvey as he is criticized for his faith?

MATTHEW 5:13-16

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

This is one of the most referenced passages in the bible. It is on the wall of our company downstairs! Remember that Jesus is probably addressing a larger group of His disciples throughout the Sermon on the Mount. He defines a Kingdom Character with the beatitudes that only God can instill in us and then tells them how this character will be perceived in this world.

Salt was very important in Jesus' time. It was a valued commodity. Roman soldiers were sometimes paid with salt, giving rise to the phrase "worth his salt." Salt was a preservative and added flavor to food. Most salt in the ancient world derived from salt marshes or the like and therefore contained

many impurities. The actual salt, being more soluble than the impurities, could leach out, leaving a residue so diluted it was of little worth.

The figures of salt and light also remind us that the life marked by the Beatitudes is not to be lived in isolation. We often assume that those inner qualities can only be developed or displayed in isolation from the world, but Jesus wants us to live them out before the world.

Christ never contemplated the production of secret Christians — Christians whose virtues would never be displayed — pilgrims who would travel to heaven by night, and never be seen by their fellow-pilgrims or anyone else.

– CHARLES SPURGEON

- Q.** Describe a businessperson in the marketplace that is Salt and Light?
- Q.** Jesus refers to Light in the context of a town or city. What does living this out at work look like and what are the challenges?
- Q.** What are some ideas to build a community of “light givers” at work?
- Q.** How does being salt and light relate to the beatitudes?
- Q.** Why do you think that Jesus makes no reference to how we are to become salt and light?
- Q.** How do you know if you are working as Salt and Light?
- Q.** How can you live as salt and light more effectively at work?