



Sermon: *Irresistible Influence*

Text: *Matthew 5: 13-16*

Preacher: *Gustavo Formenti*

Sermon question - How are we called to influence the world?

Introductory questions - Jewish tradition considered Israel and Jerusalem (as well as God and the law) the light of the world.

- 1) Read Isaiah 42:1-7 and 49:1-7. What do these passages say about light?
- 2) Read Isaiah 60:1-7. When Israel reflects the glory of God, what will be the results for the “nations,” that is, the Gentile world?
- 3) The Messiah will not only bring light to the Gentiles; he will be a light to the Gentiles. What positive properties of light reside in him?

Reflection questions -

1. What positive qualities of salt and light do you think Jesus had in mind as he spoke these words?
2. Before refrigeration, salt was used to keep meat from rotting. What then does Jesus’ statement “You are the salt of the earth” (v.13) tell us about society and the church’s role in it?
3. What has been in the news lately that indicates society is rotting and decaying?
4. What are some practical ways we can function as salt, being faithfully present where we live and work (v.13)?
5. What could cause Christians to lose their saltiness (v.13)?
6. Jesus’ second statement is “You are the light of the world” (v.14). As salt we prevent decay, the spread of evil. How does the church’s role as light complement its role as salt?
7. How can we positively promote the spread of truth in the world?
8. Why might we be tempted to hide our light (v.15)?
9. What is the result, according to Jesus, of people seeing our good deeds (v.16)?
10. What examples can you think of where the world of Christians has brought people closer to God?
11. What relationships do you see between the Beatitudes and our role as salt and light in society?