



20 MAR 2022 | PS ERNIE SONG | LIGHT OF OUR COMMUNITY | MATTHEW 5:13-15

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Deal with our FOMO so that our light can shine brightly and unabashedly.
2. Be led by the Holy Spirit to where the light is needed most.

SERMON SUMMARY

The church is the salt and light of the world. The light we have comes from Christ. When we allow His image (the Light) to form in us, this Light cannot help but shine to those around us in the community. Therefore, our posture of being salt and light is one that is birthed out of rested-ness and being, not doing.

SERMON RECAP

RiverLife Church is called to be a river bringing life to the East of Singapore ([Ezekiel 47:9](#)).

1. You are the Salt of the Earth (v13)

- Salt was used to treat wounds and preserve food. In Jewish tradition, salt carries a connotation of wisdom ([Colossians 4:6](#)).
- The Church is meant to be salt; to bring healing to the broken world, to preserve God's values, and to bring wisdom to the world so that they can see the Light ([Isaiah 61:1](#)).
- Salt is a very stable compound. The only way it can lose its saltiness is to be mixed with impurities (e.g., water dilutes salt). Once salt loses its saltiness, it loses its function.
- Therefore, we lose our 'saltiness' when we are polluted by the things of the world - when we give in to FOMO and refuse to let go of our earthly desires.

2. You are the Light of the World (v14)

- Salt is the defence; it heals and preserves/protects. Light is the offence; it dispels darkness.
- When we become disciples of God, the Holy Spirit lives within us and lights up our lives ([John 8:12](#)). The lamp of our body is our soul; it represents our desires, our character, our motivations in life. The eye is the lamp of the body, and to keep our lamp shining, our eyes need to be healthy ([Matthew 6:22](#)).
- As the Holy Spirit does His work within us, transforming us in Christlikeness, we shine brighter and brighter ([Romans 12:2](#), [John 14:26](#)).
- Shining our light always involves good works ([Matthew 5:16](#)). The Light of Christ in our lives naturally results in good works – you can't help but shine. It is not something that you do; it is who you are ([James 1:27](#)).

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- The light that we have is not manufactured by us. By our own efforts we cannot produce light. Our light comes from Christ.
 - *Why are our lights not shining?*
 - The light is always burning in us (the Holy Spirit), it cannot be extinguished if we remain in the faith. Rather, it can be covered and hidden.
 - Our light are covered by our FOMO. When we have dealt with FOMO within us, our light will be able to shine – we are not afraid to love and give at the expense of our time, money, energy, and status.
 - *How do we let this light shine?*
 - Jesus wasn't vision driven. He was Father driven ([John 5:19](#)). Jesus ministered to the needs of the people because that is who Jesus is, that is who the Father is.
 - Jesus lived by the Spirit. He reached out wherever there was a need according to the will of the Father, through the Holy Spirit ([Romans 8:5](#)).
 - Therefore, we serve the community because that is who we are – as we mature towards Christlikeness, we can't help but let our light shine. When we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us, we shine our light where it is most needed.

3. Conclusion

- We need to abandon ourselves to the flow of the river by stepping out in faith to connect and make a difference among the poor and needy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the FOMO that prevent us from allowing our light to shine? [15 mins]
2. What is the difference when one reaches out to the poor and needy within the community as a believer? [10 mins]
3. How do we allow the image of Christ (the Light) to develop in us? What are some practical ways for that to happen in our cell? [15 mins]

WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- For us to uncover the God-given light in us so that we can shine in our community.
- For us to allow the Holy Spirit to form the image of Christ (the Light) in us.
- For us to serve from a posture of rest, not strive.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Pray for God's protection on our nation from the virus.

- Pray for God's strength on our nurses and healthcare workers as they manage the influx of cases.

3. War In Ukraine

- Praise the Lord for the peace negotiations so far.
- Pray for Russia and Ukraine as they continue with their peace negotiations.
- Pray for the safety of all Ukrainians especially the churches there.
- Pray for a swift end to the invasion.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:
 - You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: rlc.sg/rcs2022.
 - You can support the work of RCS by participating in our annual Family Movie Day. For instructions on how you can watch a movie this June holidays and stand for families visit this link rlc.sg/rcsmovie.
 - You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at office@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at volunteer@rcs.org.sg.
2. **RiverLife Podcast.** We are excited to launch a new resource – The RiverLife Podcast on Spotify. The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! For a start, you will be able to catch up on all six sermons from our *Let The River Flow* sermon series. The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.
3. **Current Pulpit Series: *Heaven's Pulse, Our Calling*.** Our renewed vision for RiverLife is to allow God's life-giving river to flow through us so that we may bring hope and healing to our communities and the nations. This series is an invitation to lean in closer to Christ so that we can catch on to what matters to Him. It is only when our hearts beat in tandem with Jesus', that we can truly pray, live and give like Him.

4. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
5. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is now open for kids aged two and below from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday. **NO booking of tickets is required.** In order to protect the health of our little ones, parents, do refer to the updated guidelines in our [e-bulletin](#).
6. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
7. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
8. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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