

I always thought God was mostly interested in what I could make of myself.

That I be good. That I be loving. That I be humble.

Draw a picture of God and your world, I asked the students. Every picture came back with God off on an edge, up in the sky, shining like the sun. But in the center was the me, whatever depicted the life of that person doing the drawing.

Nothing interests me as much as me. Nothing is as important to me as me.

So while I can't know what was in the hearts of Peter and Andrew and James and John that day, I can guess. From fishing for fish Jesus called them to fish for people. And they followed him. Matthew tells us that wherever they went with Jesus he was curing every sickness and disease among the people. Matthew tells us that Epileptics and paralytics and demoniacs were cured by Jesus and the crowds were following.

And then Jesus led the select few up on the mountain top to teach them. And after he had declared the poor in spirit and meek and peace makers blessed this is what he said, "You are the salt of the earth."

Wow! Can you imagine how that must have sounded to these fishermen. You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. If they were at all like I am they stood a little taller. No obstacle could defeat them.

Jesus said, "I have come to fulfill the law and the prophets. not a letter not a stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Not the slightest commandment will be ignored. Righteousness beyond that of the scribes and the Pharisees will be in everyone in the kingdom of heaven.

Were they thinking, "I am the light of the world, I am the salt of the earth. I can do it.

You know the commandment not to kill. If you are even angry, you have killed the one you are angry with.

You know the commandment not to commit adultery. If you even look at a woman <sup>with</sup> ~~and have~~ a lustful thought, you are an adulterer.

Or if you divorce and remarry, you are an adulterer.

If you swear, even in telling the truth, you break God's commandment.

*judge not so that you will not be judged.*  
~~Jesus, pouring the pepper on the law~~

If someone strikes you on the cheek, turn the other cheek to them also. Forces you to go one mile, go two. Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you.

Be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect.

When I hear ~~all~~ of this I think Jesus is saying, Do all of that and you will be salt. Do all of that and you will be light. And then he watches. Yes, that is what I think

But Jesus did not say to the disciples, You can be salt. Or you can be light but you are.

Can you imagine a mother calling a family for supper, and being asked, "What are we having?" and responding "Salt."

Salt is not much good by itself. But what a difference it can make on popcorn, or in butter, or in a soup.

And light. Jesus said light is for hilltops - to be seen. Not to be covered with a bushel basket but to give light of all in the house.

Salt and light do not exist for themselves, but for others.

When Jesus looks at the commandments, it is the neighbor who is put in the center.

For it is the neighbor who is killed by my anger, violated by my lustful look, harmed by my judgemental attitude. It is the neighbor who is affected by my turning the other cheek, the neighbor who may be changed by my walking the second mile.

Your neighbour is not about you but for your neighbour

The law of God, our being ~~set~~<sup>set</sup> and light is not about us.

Our Lord has lived this law. For his life itself was not about him but was given for you.

When he came he lived his life not to prove  
what he was, - how good he was - but to save you from  
put you right in the company of his being - his being.  
Even today he is present for himself to be for you in the world  
and in the air.

Hear his word believe in him, follow. You will  
be blessing your neighbour as you do.