

CITYWEST CHURCH

28.04.2024.

EQUIPPING THE FOUND TO REACH THE LOST.

You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

14 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. **15** No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matt 5:13-15 (NLT)

“But watch out! Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren.

Deut 4:9 (NLT)

Ok so today we are having a break from our theme for this year to zoom right out and share the vision that is in my and Stefanie's heart.

Sitting on my balcony looking at this view I sat down in the early days even before we agreed to come and I asked God, how do I do it, how do i lead a church mid-pandemic, into the next season while honouring the legacy that Citywest has.

I wrote a bunch of things down and talked a lot with Stef and today I want to paint the broad stroke picture of what the vision of Citywest is moving forward based on the foundation we have laid.

Let's start by breaking down the teaching of Jesus on salt and light.

You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

Matt 5:13 (NLT)

Why are we salt. Why does Jesus call his followers the salt of the earth

3 reasons:

1. *Salt is precious, in the ancient world salt was precious. Roman soldiers were sometimes paid in salt as their wage, its where the phrase worth their salt comes from.
YOU AS A DISCIPLER ARE VALUABLE.*
2. *Disciples are like salt because of their preserving agents. Salt was used to preserve meats and slow decay. Christians should do the same thing to those around them.*
3. *Salt adds flavor, Christians should add something to those around them, our lives should add a flavour that is not of this world.*

Salt without flavour is just dust. It can't be made salty again.

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. **15** No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matt 5:14-16 (NLT)

Being a light is a great compliment and at the same time a great responsibility.

In John 8:12 Jesus says he is the light of the world, and here he is saying that as his disciples so are we.

Not that we are the light on our own, but we have received the light of Christ that is the blessing and the responsibility is to shine the light of Christ to those around us.

That's why we are charged by Jesus to not place it under a bowl but placed on a stand for all to see.

A city on a hill, what a blessing and what a responsibility. The good we do is not for our benefit but to bring attention to our father in heaven.

.We are called to be salt and light. Citywest is a part of the body of Christ across the earth. All of us are doing our part to fulfill the great commission which is the vision, but we are trying to define our part in the body.

ONE ARMED JUDO.

Kid does Judo

Gets in a car accident and loses his left arm

Wants to continue with Judo Master. He teaches him one move, the hardest to execute in Judo.

Its all he practices. Gets to the tournament - fights a strong agile well trained Judo fighter.

He waits for his moment and in his opponent's lack of concentration executes the one move he has learnt and wins the bout.

When the coach is asked about how he did it. He said I taught him the hardest move, the only way for an opponent to get out of it is to grab the boy's left arm.

THE ONE MOVE OF CITYWEST CHURCH IS THIS:

TO EQUIP THE FOUND TO REACH THE LOST.

That's our one move, that unites if we practice it we will see that worked out throughout our lives.

How do we do this, by living out the 4 Gs.

GATHER -

“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25 NLT

We gather to worship Jesus.

We gather because church is a family and we need each other.

We gather to be encouraged and built up in our faith.

We gather so that the lost can come in and be found.

GROW -

“You must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18 (NLT)

We grow in our relationship with Jesus.

We grow in our understanding and application of His Word.

We grow in our faith and endurance.

We grow in our Holy Spirit gifting and calling.

GIVE -

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.” Malachi 3:10 NIV

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.” 1 Corinthians 12:7 NLT

We bring the tithe to the local church.

We sow financially/generously into God's kingdom.

We give our time to serve one another in love.

We use our gifts to build up the body of Christ.

GO -

“For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10 NLT

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. **19** Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, [a] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **20** Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

MATT 28:18-20 (NLT)

*We see our world with a Kingdom perspective, finding purpose in every season/circumstance.
We shine the light of Christ and display the goodness of God through our lives.
We love God and we love people.
We believe that God is always working, and we are always ready to share our faith with others.*

The one move, committed to by all of us doesn't restrict us, it releases us.

In my time here at Citywest we have had 4 themes that have laid a foundation to what I believe God has for our future.

UNITY.

How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!
Psalm 133:1 (NLT)

ANCEINT PATH.

Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.

Jeremiah 6:16 (ESV)

EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

Eph 4:11-13 (NLT)

HOSPITALITY

When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Romans 12:13 (NLT)

These are not separate visions, but foundations of the one vision that paints the picture of equipping the found to reach the lost.

We are committed to the one move,

Unity is not conformity, we are not meant to be the same do the same and go the same way, that's weird.

We are united in our commitment to outworking the one thing through our lives to the world around us.

Jesus when he sends out the 72 sends them with the same instructions but they go all over, I'm sure having unique opportunities in the outworking of the one set of instructions from Jesus.

Note that Jesus in sending out the 72 is the mark of a mature believer. Going out into the world to share and proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. **8** Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!

Matt 10:7-8 (NLT)

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS:

- 1. WHAT DOES BEING SALT AND LIGHT IN MY LIFE LOOK LIKE? WHAT CAN I PRACTICALLY DO?**
- 2. WHAT IS JESUS STIRRING IN MY HEART TO DO?**
- 3. HOW CAN WE LIVE OUT THE VISION OF EQUIPPING THE FOUND TO REACH THE LOST.**