

## DISCUSSION NOTES

1. Read through Matthew 5:13-20 in 2 versions (I suggest the NIV & then The Message). Take some time to compare and contrast both versions.

2. The following quotes are taken from "Vanishing Grace" by Philip Yancey. It's a great read! This book continues on the theme of sharing the Good News of Jesus as a message of grace. Use these quotes as a spring board for discussion as to what it means to be salt and light in our own contexts.

Four things people complain about Christians (Christianity Today magazine).

You don't listen to me.

You judge me.

Your faith confuses me.

You talk about what's wrong instead of making it right.

Tim Keller

"Don't think in terms of what used to be called friendship evangelism. Think in terms of friendship. Your evangelism should be organic and natural, not just a bunch of bullet points and agenda items that you make into conversation hoping to get to do you're almost like a marketer."

"Here's a good test of how we love: are other people glad to be with us?"

"Humility is the real Christian virtue ... When we come to realize that ... only God saves, then we are free to serve, then we can live truly humble lives.' Nouwen changed his approach from 'selling pearls', or peddling the good news, to 'hunting for treasure' already present in those he was called to love - a shift from dispensing religion to dispensing grace. It makes all the difference in the world whether I view my neighbor as a potential convert or someone whom God already loves."

"Eugene Petersen points out that 'the root meaning in Hebrew of salvation is to be broad, to become spacious, to enlarge. It carries the sense of deliverance from an existence that has become compressed, confined and cramped."

"Ordinary Christians must live in such a way that differs from the surrounding culture or its message will never get a hearing. Herein lies the most solemn challenge facing Christians who want to communicate their faith: if we do not live in a way that draws others to the faith rather than repels them, none of our words will matter."

"... nonbelievers will listen only to those Christians who present themselves as fellow pilgrims on the way rather than as part of a superior class who has already arrived."

"Our job, in short, is to show the world another way to live.

Anne Lamott ... 'Again and again I tell God I need help, and God says, "Well isn't that fabulous? Because I need help too. So you go and get that old woman over there some water, and I'll figure out what we're going to do about your stuff."