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EVERYDAY CHURCH: Telling Others By Living on Mission! Matthew 5:13-16

WELCOME:

Good morning, Trinity! It is always so good to see you and worship with you. And I want to say a special welcome to our guests with us this morning. We are thrilled you have joined us today.

We love to connect with guests. You can help us know about your time with us today in a couple of different ways. You can text the keyword, TBCMP, which stands for Trinity Baptist Church Mt. Pleasant, to the number 94-000. When you send that keyword to that number, you will be sent a link back that is safe to click on. It will take you to a short form. When you fill out and submit that form, it notifies us, and we look forward to the opportunity to connect with you.

Or you can stop by Guest Connect located in the main lobby just outside the worship center. We have a team of people that would love to meet you and give you a small gift as a token of thanks for you being here with us today. Even if you text in, stop by Guest Connect and pick up a gift. We are so glad you are here today.

HANGING OF THE GREEN:

In addition to all that we have going on today with our Thanksgiving Boxes, I want to invite you to join our staff as we decorate our campus for the hanging of the green.

Christmas is my favorite time of the year, and I love our church campus when it is decorated for Christmas. We need your help tomorrow morning, beginning at 9am, to help us set up our Christmas decorations. Everything from putting up trees, hanging wreaths, and setting up a photo booth, there's something for everyone to help with. While it is not in the Bible, the old proverb is so true, "Many hands make light work." So, bring your family and let's have some fun decorating for Christmas!

ANNUAL REPORT:

Well, every year we set a part one Sunday to give an annual report. The purpose of that is to celebrate what The Lord has done, but also communicate with our Church Family some important information.

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You know, Psalm 145, verses 5 through 7 says, *"5On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. 6They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. 7They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness."* Today we are reflecting on and declaring God's greatness, faithfulness, and His awesome deeds. We celebrate The Lord, for all He's done in and through our church.

And for those of you that are guests, know this isn't a typical Sunday. But my hope and prayer is that you get a glimpse of how The Lord is at work at Trinity. He's at work everywhere, and we get to join in the celebration of a little bit of God's work today.

When you came in this morning, you should have found a couple items on your chair. One is a ballot to vote on the 2025 proposed budget, and the other is an annual report. I am going to walk us through the report, then we will cast our votes on the proposed budget. Following that, we will dive into God's Word and wrap up our teaching series, "Everyday Church." So, if you'll take a look at your annual report, let's look at what The Lord has been up to.

Our vision at Trinity is to become a Gospel-centered community redeeming brokenness through hope in Jesus Christ. And we do that in three ways: Trusting Jesus in Worship, Transforming Lives in Community, and Telling Others by Living on Mission. So, I want to walk through some highlights of God's work in each of those categories.

First, you'll see under the category of Trusting Jesus through worship that The Lord is continuing to grow our church. For 2024, we are averaging 598 in total worship attendance. That represents a 10.5% increase from last year's report.

We have baptized 38 people in the past 12 months. Baptism is a good gauge of people coming to faith and then following Jesus as The Lord of their life. So, those 38 baptisms make up a little more than 6% of our worship attendance. We have more baptisms lined up for next week, too. God is good!

As you can see, we opened our newly renovated Kids Worship space in January of this year as a part of our Next40 initiative. I'll talk about Next40 in a moment, but if you have not had an opportunity to experience Kids Worship, you need to visit with Alicia and plan a time to watch it. Kids are leading their

peers in worship and also sharing the gospel. We've had several kids and students come to faith this year because students are sharing The Gospel with their peers. Isn't that awesome?! God is at work in amazing ways!

We also got to share the Good News of hope in Jesus to 1,415 people during our 4 Easter worship services this year. You know, research shows that people are most open to an invitation to church at Christmas and Easter. And God uses those invitations to change people's eternity.

Across our kids and student camps, we had 85 students attend summer camp. And we had 167 kids be a part of Fun Camp, our church's version of VBS. In addition to that we had a host of volunteers help make that happen. And let me just put a plug in for 2025. As a part of Fun Camp, we are going to have a 2-night family rally for parents and kids called Kid's Blitz. It is a Nickoleoden style family game that will share the gospel. It is an absolute blast, so be on the lookout for that in June of next year.

And I can't move on from a report on worship without mentioning our incredible worship team that leads us in worship each week. We've been able to add to this amazing team of talented musicians and we are looking to continue to expand that team. So, if you'd like to visit with our team, let us know. We implemented a process to get people plugged into our worship teams and I'd love to share that with you.

Now, let's look at the Transforming Lives in Community section. As you can see there, we averaged 351 people each week attending a group. That represents about 59% of our worship attendance. I'd really like to see that percentage increase in 2025, so, let us help you get connected in a group. It is vitally important for your discipleship. Besides, it is the best hour of my week.

You can't talk about transforming lives and not highlight Celebrate Recovery! In September, CR celebrated it's one year anniversary as a ministry of our church. Marilyn and Kenny Logan and the leadership team are doing amazing ministry. They have completed a round of step studies and from that many have found hope and healing from life's hurts, habits, and hang ups. And there are several more engaged in step study right now.

You know, a lot of people have a misconception about Celebrate Recovery. While it is a place to heal from addiction, it is also a place to heal from the hurts

in life we all experience. If you ever wonder if Celebrate Recovery is for you, it is for anyone and everyone who has experienced a hurt. And that's all of us.

In addition to growing the leadership team of CR, their ministry to kids and teens has grown. This ministry doesn't just minister to adults, but they have incredible programming for preschoolers, kids, and students as they truly are ministering to the whole family. I'm grateful for the work God is doing in and through our Celebrate Recovery ministry.

A couple of highlights I want to mention. We were able to be a host site for Texas Baptists' Discipleship Collective. That is the State convention's collective for training for preschool, kids, students, adults, and pastor leaders to be more effective in discipling.

We launched 3 new Adult Bible Study Groups, developed resources for your family to use in discipling your kids, and launched a revamped welcome team that is helping guests connect to our church.

Trinity, this church, truly is a transforming place for people. And it is you that cares enough to support and engage in such important ministries. And on behalf of the people, I get to hear stories from, thank you. Thank you for your willingness to love on others and get them to a place where The Lord can do a transformative work in and through them. So, many stories to tell.

Now, let's look at the Telling Others by living on Mission section. I'm not going to spend a ton of time on this section as we had a Missions Sunday emphasis about a month ago. But there are a few things that I want to mention and celebrate.

This year, we have mobilized 232 people, outside our church walls to minister to others. The reason that is so important is because we see our church as an aircraft carrier. We are a place to come and worship Jesus, find healing, be encouraged, so that we can be sent back out as missionaries in our everyday lives. And I know many of you are probably not recorded in that number, but you engage in ministry every day. That's what Church is supposed to be about.

Did you know that 214 volunteers serve each week to make our ministries happen? It really takes more than that as our staff shares that they have more need for volunteers. But that is simply amazing.

We've also seen a significant uptick in our missional engagement this year. Not only did we sponsor and send 5 teams on trips across the United States and abroad this year, but we engaged people in need right here in our community. So far this year, we've served 5,281 families, not people, families through partnership with the East Texas Food Bank Mobile Pantry. And I'm fired up about our Thanksgiving Food Boxes today. At the time of my writing this, we had gathered 276 boxes. But because of partnership with other community partners, we are now well over 300 boxes to distribute today! We challenged you to help us pass out 200 boxes and you guys and our community have blown that out of the water. Way to go!

If you want to know what a priority in a church is, look at where their dollars go. For us, we are a missional church. So far this year, we have spent \$121,586.49 on mission initiatives. And that will go up sharply as we are getting ready to send out another disaster relief team to help with hurricane clean-up efforts. If you are interested in serving on that team, let us know and we will put you in touch with the right people. They are leaving this next Saturday.

Another way our church has lived on mission is by doing a phenomenal job of being a host site for the Tim Tebow Foundation's Night to Shine, a prom like experience for honored guests with special needs. We partied like it was 1999 last February. I know that dates me, but it was a highlight for me this year. And the awesome thing is that we have been selected to be a host site again in 2025! So, dust off your dancing shoes, we are going to provide the best night ever for honored guest in our community. You can visit trinitytx.org/nighttoshine for more details and to register an honored guest or sign up to volunteer. It's going to be a blast.

Again, if you want to know all about Missions at Trinity, and all you are a part of through our church, I want to encourage you to look up the Missions Sunday service if you missed it on YouTube. You can search Trinity Baptist Church Mt. Pleasant Texas on YouTube and watch the service from October 27.

I hope you are encouraged by all that our church has been a part of so far in 2024. There's still more to come. We have our upcoming Christmas teaching series that we are calling, "The Songs of Christmas." That's going to be fun. And we will have 2 Candlelight Christmas Eve services this year at 3 and 5pm. You'll not want to miss that. It's always a great time.

But you know, all that we have celebrated today, and even the things that we don't have time to mention, none of it is possible without your generosity. And I want to say THANK YOU for fueling the vision of our church through your tithes and offerings. I do want to give you a financial report. And by the way, at our quarterly church conferences, we go over our financials in detail. So, I want to encourage you to be a part of those.

But as you can see, our budget requirement, year to date, is \$1,060,392. Budget contributions so far this year are \$1,038,213.50. That is not inclusive of designated gifts to specific initiatives. That is just strictly budget contributions. Our expenses so far for this year are \$1,012,889.05. That represents a positive balance on the year of \$25,324.45. Thank you so much, again, for your generosity. And I believe we are in a great position to not only meet but exceed our budget for 2024.

I also want to make note of the contributions you have made to our Next40 initiative. In February of 2023, our church celebrated our 40th anniversary. And we really began to pray and dream about what God has in store for us for the next 40 years. And we believe God was, and is, calling us to reach the next generation for Christ. As a part of that desire, we needed to address some things with our facility as well as provide tools to accomplish that call. We put before you a three-phase approach to making those investments.

Phase 1 focused on Kids and Preschool ministries. We replaced and expanded our old playground. It can now accommodate over 150 kids at one time. In addition to the playground, as I mentioned previously, we renovated what we used to call the Quad and made it our Kids Worship Center. It is state of the art and an incredible tool for ministry. We also, as a part of Phase 1, increased safety measures in efforts to provide the safest environment possible.

Not only has Phase 1 been fully funded by your generosity, we are also now initiating Part A of Phase 2. Phase 2 addresses our Student Ministry. Part A is the replacing and enhancement of audio, video, and lighting in the Student Center. In addition, we have relocated the sound booth and renovated the bathrooms in the Student Center. The construction work has been completed and the audio, video, and lighting install is scheduled to begin December 9th.

Part B includes the expansion of the back patio into a half-court basketball court. I want to ask you to please consider giving toward Next40 as we hope to be able to initiate Part B very soon.

We launched the Next40 initiative in August of 2023. In just 2024 alone, total gifts to the Next40 have been \$64,474.43. Bringing the total contribution to Next40 since its launch in 2023 to \$463,472.00. Thank you, Church Family, for not only funding and fueling ministry, but also helping us be equipped to reach the next generation for Christ.

BUDGET VOTE:

So, at this time, I am going to ask the chairman of our Deacon body, Josh Hammond, to come a lead us in voting on the proposed budget for 2025. In case you don't know Josh, he is a servant of servants. You can find him running our sound each Sunday. But he has done an incredible job of leading our deacons. Would you help me welcome Josh Hammond this morning? Josh, lead us in a time of business.

[Josh takes over. Sermon Bump plays.]

MESSAGE:

I know what many of you are thinking. This guy is about to preach?! Well, we do study the Bible around here, so we do want to do that today. And I promise, I will be brief.

We are wrapping up our teaching series called "Everyday Church" today. So, I want to invite you to take your Bibles and turn with me to the Gospel of Matthew. We are going to be in chapter 5, verses 13 through 16 this morning. Our topic this morning is Telling Others by Living on Mission. And since we had an awesome sermon by one of our missionaries, Paul Newby, about what living on mission means, I want to build on that as we seek to be a church modeled after the New Testament Church, an Everyday Church. We are going to look at 2 ways we are to live life on mission.

I want to read our passage together and then break it down. Matthew 5, verses 13 through 16. This is a part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is speaking here and he said, *"¹³You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴You are the light of the world.*

A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. 2 ways to live on mission: being salt and light.

I want to first point out that an everyday is...

1) A Blessing to the world.

In verse 13, Jesus says, *"¹³You are the salt of the earth."* The first illustration Jesus uses is salt. What is it about the illustration of salt that points us to living life on mission for God's Kingdom?

Well, there are a few characteristics of salt that apply to what Jesus is saying on that topic. Salt was valuable, added flavor, and preserved food. So, I want to briefly look at those characteristics.

First, salt was a valuable commodity in the ancient world. Greeks thought of salt as being divine as it was pure. But it was also valuable because it was sought after. Roman soldiers were sometimes paid in salt. That's how valuable it was. And that is where we get our phrase, "He's not worth his salt." Maybe you've never heard that expression, but that's where it comes from.

Jesus' point here is that His disciples were to be precious to the world, or as He says it, of the earth. Again, "salt of the earth," kind of people. So, in being a blessing to the world, we are to be of value. And when we add to society, we position ourselves to be effective in living on mission.

But in addition to salt being valuable in the ancient world, we know it to be a flavoring agent. Salt adds flavor to our food. And followers of Jesus are to add flavor to the world by being a blessing.

What are some ways we, as believers in Jesus, can add flavor to our world? Well, I think our world is starving for hope and joy. Those are to be defining characteristics of Christians. I read a quote this week in my study that said, "Christianity is to life what salt is to food."

But you know, many times and in many places, Christians are perceived as the opposite. Instead of adding flavor, we can bring a sense of sourness. But I think

Jesus is urging us, while we are to live on mission, we do so by living our faith in a vibrant way that cause our lives to be contagious, desirable, especially to those outside the faith.

So, we are to be valuable and add flavor to the world. But also, another characteristic of salt is that it is a preservative.

In Jesus' day, they didn't have refrigeration. So, salt was a necessity to help food last. And in that way, we are to live lives of holiness so as to prevent the decay of society. Living on mission means that we work to preserve the souls of others. And that comes by what of a relationship with Jesus as Lord.

If I could reduce what I think Jesus is saying in a single point, as it pertains to living on mission, it would be that the presence of Christians living on mission to make the world better. We are to be a blessing to the world.

And so, as was the case of the early church, an everyday church adds value where they are. That is true both individually and corporately. In other words, I am to add value, be a blessing, to society in my everyday life, where I do life. But then there are times that we do that together, corporately, as a church.

For example, I can add value individually when I personally live on mission. Examples are when we are leaders in our community, leaders in our workplace, intentional in social settings like our kid's soccer teams, looking for opportunities for random acts of kindness, tipping well at the restaurant, going above and beyond, volunteering, partnering with organizations, being school leaders, investing in other couples, so forth and so on. That's living on mission individually. It's being salt of the earth.

But we also live on mission together. For example, Thanksgiving boxes, mobile pantry, benevolence, service projects, Night to Shine, Celebrate Recovery, facility use. Did you know that our church building is utilized 5 days a week? We live on mission corporately when we put on fun camps, feed kids in our age graded ministries on Wednesday nights, cook burgers at NTCC's dorm move in day, and by hosting groups on campus.

You know, I have gotten into the habit of asking a question of our church at least once a year. I can't remember where I ran across this question, but it is a haunting question. The question I ask of our church is, "If we were to announce

that we were closing our doors, would our community beg us not to?" Like, would our community say, "No! You can't close your doors. You do so much for us?" Or would the community even notice?

If the answer to the question is that our community would beg us not to close, then we know we are being salt of the earth. Because here's the deal, Jesus said if we ever lose our saltiness, "It becomes useless." So, we are called to live on mission by being a blessing to the world. Secondly, an everyday church is...

2) A Testimony to the world.

Not only does living on mission mean that we add to society, but it also means that we are to be a testimony. Jesus goes on to say in verses 14 and 15, "***14**You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15**Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.*" We are not only salt, but we are also light.

Light in the ancient world had both literal and spiritual significance. In Jesus' day, they didn't have electricity. So, they would light oil lamps to be able to see in the dark. But light also referred to enlightenment. To be a light meant that one had a sense of wisdom about them, or they had knowledge that was spiritual in nature.

Like what we did in talking about salt, I want to mention a few characteristics of light. First, light is visible. Light is seen. While salt works behind the scenes, it is invisible, light is very obvious. Other people should see our good deeds. Not as a way to bring accolades to oneself, but to be visible in a way that gives glory to God.

When Jesus calls us, "***the light of the world***," He is being very intentional. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says of Himself, "I am the light of the world." His point is that as He is THE Light of the world, we are to be His reflection. It is not that we have light within us. The only spiritual light we have is because of a revelation of The Holy Spirit and the truth that He dwells in us. I've heard it said that the moon does not have light in and of itself but reflects the light of the sun. So, we reflect Jesus, and in that way we are a tangible testimony of Jesus to the world.

Light is visible and light is guiding. When we seek to find guidance through the dark, we grab a light so that we can see where we need to go. In the same

way, we are to be a guiding light for others to know where they need to go. Ultimately, where do they need to go? The Bible says we all have sinned and are in need of forgiveness. That can only be found in a personal relationship with Jesus.

Light is visible and it is guiding. But light is also a warning. For example, the lights on our car dash warn us that something is amiss and needs attention. It is our responsibility to bring attention of eternity to others.

So, the question then is if light is visible, guiding and warning, how can we accomplish that? Well, to be a light, I believe is to share the gospel. When we reflect the light of Jesus, we share the Gospel with others. And in that we are to live on mission.

So, we talked about being salt, being a blessing to the world. And we've talked about being light, being a testimony to the world. The last thing I want to point out is that an everyday church is...

3) Both and, not either or.

Look at what Jesus says. He says, "You are salt... You are light." He doesn't say that you can be salt and light. No, Jesus says that if we are in Christ, we ARE salt AND light. Look at the keyword, "and," in verse 16. ***16**In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.* Follow my thinking here.

We let our lights shine before others so that they may see our good works. Good works are like being salt. We do the good works to add value to society, to bring joy and hope, and to preserve it. Again, that mostly is invisible work. **But we are to be salt and light in a way that others may see the why.** And that why is that they give glory to our Father in Heaven.

Now, why would the world give glory to God in Heaven? Because they have realized His love most vividly expressed in the giving on His Son that whosoever believes in Him might not perish but have ever lasting life, eternal life. We give glory to God because of who He is and because of what He's done. What has He done? He's rescued us from sin, death, and the grave.

Now, the reason why I say this is a both / and kind of deal is because I believe we are to be a people who do good works, AND people to speak the Gospel.

Now, I think there is a tension to be held here. And I want you to hear this because it's important to living on mission. To only do good works, to only be salt, and not be light is to neglect sharing the Gospel. And when I look at Jesus' ministry, I see how He was both. Jesus met physical needs, He was salt, but He didn't neglect sharing the remedy to their spiritual need, He was light. I think that's what He's getting at in our passage when He calls us both salt and light.

In Romans 10 we see this tension played out. Beginning in verse 13, Paul writes, ***13**For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* [Yes and Amen! But] ***14**How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?* [There's the tension of salt AND light]. ***15**And how are they to preach unless they are sent?* [And Jesus sent all believers in the Great Commission]. *As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"* [Skip down to verse 17]. ***17**So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."*

An Everyday Church, by all means, adds to society by being salt. And we must be salt. But an everyday church, shares the Gospel that by its proclamation, people may be saved. And so we must be light.

Now, I also want to say, that we are only responsible for doing and sharing. God is responsible for saving. In other words, we simply share the Gospel, but God does the work of redeeming people. And so, we share and leave the results up to God. We living on mission when we are a blessing to the world AND a testimony to the world.

CONCLUSION:

Gospel Presentation

Pray

ENDNOTES:

ⁱ Works consulted in preparation for this message: John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Matthew 1-7*, Moody Publishers: Chicago, 1985. David Platt, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Matthew*, Holman: Brentwood, 2013; William Barclay, *The Gospel of Matthew Volume 1: Chapters 1 to 10*, Westminster Press: Philadelphia, 1958; David Guzik, *Salt and Light: Matthew 5:13-16*, 2019, accessed online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wag9maR9Xq4>; Skip Heitzig, "Expound: Matthew 5:5-16," taught at Calvary Albuquerque, October 19, 2011, accessed online: <https://connectwithskip.com/teachings/#/series/55/sermon/796>.