



(PROJECT) RED: Learning and Living the Words of Jesus

(APPROVAL) RED

"LORD... YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE." — JOHN 6:68

Week 2 of 9

We must be as committed to internalizing the words of Jesus
as we'd have to be to eat his flesh! (from John 6)

It's all about getting Jesus' words into us and letting them do something to us. // PRAY

LOOKING FOR APPROVAL

ILL: Looking for approval / Poetry => Gettysburg / Novelist => Flower for Lucy

- ▶ In a contest, approval is clear because of the **awards**.
- ▶ In a class, approval is clear because of the **grades**.
- ▶ In life, we can't know because the measurements **change** daily.
weaker moments: compete when victory is certain, do good when observed.
better moments: motivated to be someone who makes life better for others.

"**Greatness** should be **recognized!**"

Matthew 5: new thinking on approval, how to get it, and who deserves it... Today, the bookends.

"YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH. . . THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. . ."

Matthew 5:13-16 (p. 671)

ABOUT SALT

ILL: I like salt, broccoli, brussels sprouts

Salt is **pleasing** and **preserving**,
making life **better**.

BEING SALT

- ▶ Our world is prone to **decay**, so we are called to be agents of **preservation**.
- ▶ Our world often hands people **brussels sprouts**, but we can make life **better** for them.

ABOUT LIGHT

ILL: Faster than the power of dark.

Light is **revealing** and **motivating**,
making life **easier**.

BEING LIGHT

- ▶ Our world is **aimless**, but we know the truths of God to give people **direction** in life.
- ▶ Our world is **selfish**, but we know the **beauty**, majesty, and **love** of God to lift people beyond themselves.

JESUS' OWN APPLICATION:

Our position and calling is to do good so others approve of God.

(We are **worship leaders!**)

ILL: the tragedy of Christians who don't live this way
Pastors... ministry would be great / unbelievers... I love Jesus but not the people
Should Say... I love Jesus because I've met his people.

WARNING:

WARNING: some go sweet, bland, bitter, or dark.

Our position and calling is to do good so others approve of God.

Our temptation is to do good so others approve of us.

"DON'T DO YOUR ACTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE MEN. . ."

Matthew 6:1-4

TRANSITION: Does this contradict what Jesus said earlier?

TWO KEY PHRASES:

- ▶ "to be seen by them" (6:1) — Your **motive** is the issue.
- ▶ "see your good deeds" (5:16) — Your **method** draws attention to the deed, not the doer.
Secrecy in this instance can do good! // THE GOOD DEED / APPROVAL CYCLE

Do good so others **honor God**,
and God will **honor you!**

TAKE IT HOME

- ▶ Dig into the passages of this week's devotionals.
- ▶ Ask yourself daily, "What am I doing today to help others approve of God?"

THEY WILL HONOR GOD; GOD WILL HONOR YOU!