



No More Than Enough

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“You are the salt of the earth.” Prior to industrialization, salt was a highly valued commodity. In the Middle Ages, a ton of salt sold for thirty-three gold ducats. Much earlier, Roman soldiers were often paid in salt. Hence our word *salary*. “You are the light of the world.” Like salt, light also is a valuable and necessary part of life. Without light, living plants die and human beings grow depressed.

Curiously, we only become aware of salt and light when they are absent. Food tends to be less tasty and bland without salt. And without light in the room we stumble and trip. Yet too much salt ruins food, while too much light blinds us, like when we drive facing headlights at night or stare at the sun. As valuable as salt and light are, both are at their best when unnoticed.

I offer these realities as images for persons of faith. Too much of “us” in the mix and we become the center of life, our egos blinding others to the workings of God. Yet absent, a world without persons of faith grows flat for lack of values and wisdom.

Likewise, the Church. Whenever the Church draws attention to itself, whenever it is clothed with pomp and majesty, God recedes to the background. Without the Church’s wisdom, however, a world hungry for meaning grows lost; charity is forgotten. We are called to be salt and light, no more than enough. ●

Reflect

How do I keep a balance between too much of me in the picture and too little?



Your light must shine
before others, that they
may see your good deeds
and glorify your heavenly
Father.

MATTHEW 5:16