

## What do you do?

- Exercise in describing what you do - say at a party
  - when you are at a party and someone says "what do you do?" how do you answer?

## Who are you?

- Exercise in getting beyond what we do in establishing our identity:
  - what would we add, or subtract, or put a different way in saying who we are...?

## Salt and Light

- When Jesus' uttered these words about salt and light, it would have been instantly understandable to those listening:
  - perhaps less clear to us!

### Salt

- Salt had two positive purposes:
  - preservative; rub it into meat to keep it from going off;
  - flavour enhancer
- **Losing Saltiness?**
  - often puzzled - salt can't "lose its saltiness"!
  - cut block of "salt" from the side of the dead sea, carry it up the hill to Jerusalem, get caught in an afternoon downpour.... salt leached out of the rock...
  - only then useful for pouring on the path - would keep the weeds down since still a trace of salt left in the otherwise worthless grit!

### Light

- **What is light to us?**
  - hardly think about it - flip the switch, bathed in light at any time of day or night!
  - lights for mere entertainment - fairy lights round Fintry?!
- **Go back into 1st century Palestine:**
  - no electricity; utterly dependent on oil lamps; flickering, dim light!
  - light represented safety and security at night;
  - light shows direction - no street lights, few real roads... out late, lights of the "city on the hill"....

## 21st Century Alternatives

- Come up with 21st century alternatives to salt or light, which carry the same implications:
  - **get into pairs or threes...**
  - eg fridge, spice... for salt
  - eg FAQ (illumination)... for light
- **So, how do we become our 21st century alternatives?**
  - what does the application look like? - **SUGGESTIONS!!**

### Preservative:

- in where the corruption, the "going off" is happening
- lifting the tone, being a positive part of the life of the world around us, going to the party, accepting the neighbours invitation to coffee, using the amenities (eg shops, library, etc) rather than withdrawing from them because they are going downhill

### Flavour Enhancer:

- bring a positive influence where we go?
- What is our "saltiness"?

## Matthew 5:13-16 WWJD 2: Living on Purpose Fintry, 22/1/2006, pm

- it is our **relationship with Christ**
- it is that which makes us different, which allows us to be a preservative and a flavour enhancer!
- so worth guarding!
- and that is easy to say and hard to do!
- no alternative to the **time** - time to pray, grapple with the Scriptures, to gather with other Christians - and **attitude** that wants to get to know Christ better

### Light

- We to be those who "light up" the world around us:
  - revealing place of safety and security, pointing way home
- First century lights dependent on oil to keep burning
  - so our light - dependent on oil of relationship with Jesus

### What we are, not just what we do

- From Genesis on people are called to **bear again God's image**:
  - to **rule over** the world as he would
  - to **preserve** the good and **bring out the flavours** locked up within it
  - for to be **human** is to have a **purpose** - every gift we have been granted is for this end
  - our intelligence and artistry, our creativity and character, our strength and stamina - all are given so that we can work in partnership with God to unlock the full potential of his world
- In this little passage Jesus calls us to return to our first purpose
  - come back to who we **are**, and not just think about what we **do**
  - **whole life pervading, salt, light.....**