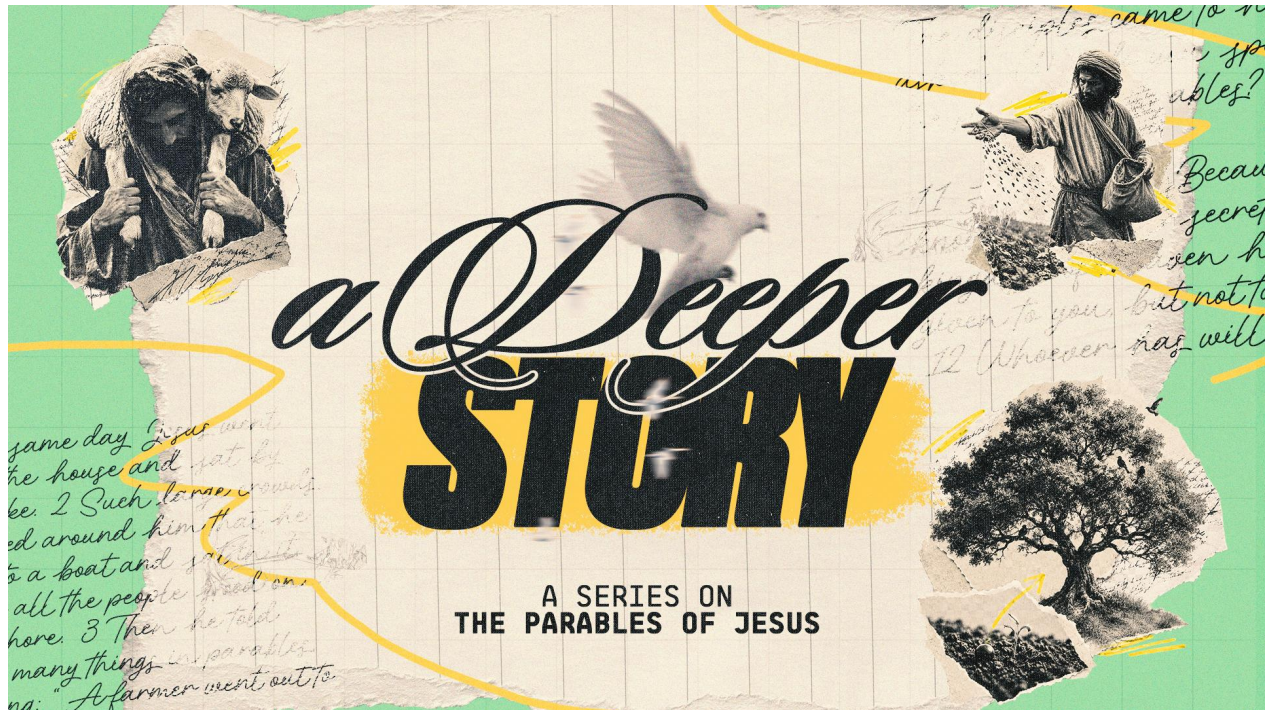




MORE THAN A STORY: *"Salt, Light, and Purpose In The Kingdom"*

Pastors Lucas Ashley

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Introduction

Have you asked the question: "How can I make a difference in the lives of those around me? For believers, the answer is always evident. Jesus' teaching about salt and light in Matthew 5:13–16 was directed toward His disciples— people who had chosen to follow Him and experience His transforming work. While Jesus had an original audience, His message then is still simple and challenging today: **because God has changed us, we are called to make a difference in the world around us.**

Salt makes a positive impact by changing and preserving, while light brings visibility, hope, and direction. In the same way, followers of Jesus are meant to live differently while remaining engaged with the world around them. Our good works, gifts, and opportunities are ultimately meant to point people toward God and His redeeming love.

Discussion Questions

1. God Has Made You Different

Read Matthew 5:13–14 and Ephesians 5:7–8.

- What does it mean for a follower of Jesus to be “salt” and “light”?
- In what ways should our lives look different because of what God has done in us?
- What can cause us to lose our influence or hide our light?

2. God Has Equipped You for Good Works

Read Matthew 5:16 and Ephesians 2:8–10.

- What gifts, passions, or opportunities has God given you to make a difference?
- Who is someone God may be inviting you to encourage, serve, or help right now?
- How can you become more intentional about recognizing these

opportunities?

3. Our Purpose Is to Point People to God

Read Matthew 5:16 and 1 Corinthians 10:31.

- Why is it important that our good works ultimately point people toward God rather than ourselves?

- What would it look like for your everyday life to bring praise to God?

- How could your actions help someone else experience the redeeming love of God?

Memory Verse:

“In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

Matthew 5:16 (NLT)