

We seem to like strong leaders, people we can look up to, people we can believe in, people we think will actually change things and make them better.

Jesus says , “**You** are the salt of the earth.....**You** are the light of the world.” Not Donald Trump, Winston Churchill, or Margaret Thatcher, but **you**, a child in Year3 preparing for First Holy Communion, a child in Year 6 preparing for Confirmation, **you**, the teacher, the parent, the grandparent, whoever or whatever you are, you are all *the salt of the earth... the light of the world*. And, what’s more, your *light must shine in the sight of men*. This is our job as Christian men and women, to enter the dark corners of our world and turn on the light.

We should never leave it to the priest or the politician. In fact we shouldn’t leave it to anyone. Making the world a better place is the responsibility of each and every one of us. We may not wield the levers of power at national or international level, but we do wield the levers of power over our own hearts and minds. Our little decisions over everyday things do make a difference. We can turn on the lights in our own little corner of the world. We can begin to make our world as a whole salty again.

What I also know is that none of this comes easily to us. We don’t find it easy to take the initiative, to swim against the tide, to be a bit different. “*I came among you in great fear and trembling,*” said St Paul. He certainly wasn’t a natural leader or a natural public speaker. What God wanted him to do and what **he** wanted to do were completely divergent.

This could have caused him a breakdown. Maybe it did cause him a breakdown. Either way, what he comes to learn is that it is only in Jesus, in him crucified, that we can do anything. Not through natural ability not through a knowledge of philosophy, not through great oratory, but through *the power of the Spirit*.

His leadership, his preaching, comes straight from his prayer. This is what we all need to do. To be the salt of the earth, to be the light of the world, we need to pray. We need to acknowledge our own uselessness and smallness, and allow Jesus to take over, allow the Spirit to do the talking.

So don’t trust in strong leaders who promise you the earth. Take leadership for yourself in Jesus.

Be the salt of the earth.

Be the light of the world.