

You Are Really Something!

The description of the disciples found in today's Gospel is an impressive compliment—and an even greater challenge. Jesus tells them they are “salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13), bringing out the good taste of living. In other words, life would be bland and uninteresting without them. They are also the “light of the world” (Matthew 5:14), helping people find their way. Without them, others would stumble and fall. Jesus is telling them how important they are in the lives of others. They could each and all say: I am really something!

Such compliments are also a challenge. What must one do to be salt and light in the lives of others? The Isaian passage provides some suggestions: Share your bread with the hungry; shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked; don't turn your back on your own; remove from your midst oppression, false accusation, and malicious speech. In other words, to be salt or light is to meet the needs of the needy. This teaching of Jesus is not as easy as it might at first look.

Jesus is speaking to his disciples, his followers. They are not those who are simply curious about this itinerant preacher or remarkable healer. They have chosen to follow him, not merely from place to place, but to model their lives after his. Isn't that what we also claim to be—his followers? Haven't we promised to model our lives after his? If so, as both compliment and challenge he says to us as well, “You are really something!”

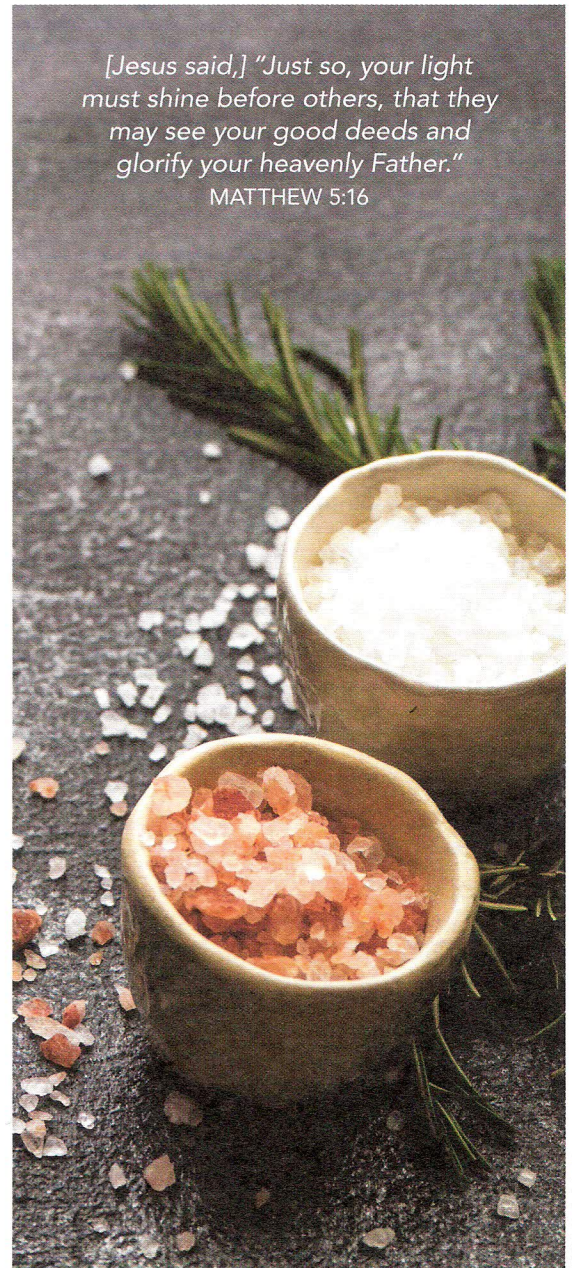
—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * *In what ways do you already enrich or enlighten the lives of others?*
- * *In what ways is this compliment a challenge for you?*

[Jesus said,] “Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

MATTHEW 5:16



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