

Salt Of The Earth Matthew 5:13-16

Ever heard that phrase applied to some little-known individual

"She is the 'salt of the earth'" often indicates one who is generous, kind, helpful. One who seeks to lift others.

Often we consider the 'heroes' of the Bible

Consider some who were just folks doing their part without notoriety

Quote I recently received: (NathanWard)

"I believe there is a word of tremendous encouragement [in Daniel 4] to Christians who work in the secular world. ... I have a very profound respect for Christians who stick it out in all kinds of secular jobs, and especially those who are in public or political service of any kind. You are the real 'salt of the earth' in the sense that Jesus meant. You are those who stand against corruption and shine as lights in the mids of 'a warped and crooked generation'....

"Yet so often the church gives the impression that what really counts is 'the ministry' or 'missionary work,' when in fact it is the presence and faithful work and witness of the hosts of Christian so-called lay people that matters far, far more in relation to the world around us. ...

"[M]inistry and mission in God's world are far too important to be left to ministers and missionaries. Daniel had a mission but it took him a lifetime of hard work in a government office to fulfill it. He earned the respect of the king and the right to speak, and when the moment came he had the courage to speak it in the name of God. So wherever God has put you and whatever your daily grind, see it as the place where you may be called to be the spark plug where the power of God's word jumps explosively across the gap into the secular world."

(C.J.H. Wright, "Hearing the Message of Daniel," 103–104)

Some We See As Heroes

(Really just regular folks serving where they are to best of their ability)

Daniel- Government bureaucrat - Daniel 2:48; 5:29; 6:1-3

3 Friends - Daniel 2:49

Boaz - Wealthy Farmer - Ruth 2:1,8-9; 3:14-15

Naomi - Grieving - Ruth 1:3-5; 4:17

Ruth – Learner - Ruth 1:16; Ruth 2:2,23

Mordecai - Retired Gentleman - Esther 2:5-7,21-22; Esther 3:2

Esther – Royalty - Esther 2:17; 4:15-16

Just Some Ordinary Folks

(Yet just as helpful and necessary to the work of the Lord)

Slave Girl - 2Kings 5:2-3

They went everywhere preaching - Acts 8:4; 11:19

Some Greeks in Antioch - Acts 11:20

Lydia – Merchant - Acts 16:14-15

Jason – Thessalonica - Acts 17:5-9

Aquila & Priscilla – Laborers - Acts 18:2-3,18-19,26

Titius Justus - ??? - Acts 18:7

Onesimus - Slave - Philemon 10-11

Gaius - 3John 5-6

How Many Others?

Not to mention women who cared for Jesus during His ministry or unknown who faithfully served without mention.

It does not take a hero of faith to serve God

Even the heroes were just those of faith who trusted in God and went about doing what is right in their daily lives.

What about me?