

# Moulding Culture

## Story

📖 [A Family Restored: Linda's Story](#)

## Question

Do we see it as our responsibility to change the culture

of where we live?

frontlines?

School

Work

Family

Friends

Leisure

## Linda's story example

Linda not happy with her daughter feeling rejected

"Let your gentleness be known to all men" Phil 4:5

Linda worked with her family to adopt this cultural trait

Instead of ignoring or making it worse

Asked help of other family members

To heal the one family member

## Passage Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus' teaching of being salt and light is deceptively simple

A little salt changes a meal

taste

A little salt preserves food

A little light brightens a room

Don't lose your saltiness

Don't hide your light

## Jesus claims that as his followers

We are the salt of the earth

We are the light of the world

There is nothing we can do about that!

We as Christians also flavour the culture that we are in

except when we stop following Jesus

## When we remain in his vine

we are salt

we are light

## It is a characteristic

It is who we are in Christ

## But we can choose

Choose to lose or hide it

Or we can use or show it

That's our choice

## Or is it?

Is that Jesus choice for us?

Does he want us to be hidden away?

No, he wants us to be out there: being salt and being light

And if we follow Jesus, we want to do what he asks of us

## Does moulding Culture bring people to Jesus?

maybe not always directly

We do not hear that Linda's daughter became a Christian

Or the rest of her family

But we do hear that her family has been reconciled

God wants that too

He wants all people to live in harmony

## Passage Isa 58:6-14

This passage is a bit more complicated

## Isaiah addresses this to Judah

Remember:

Israel and later Judah were exiled to Babylon

A new emperor Cyrus

appointed by God

Decreed that all exiles could return home

They did and they rebuild the Temple

## Now Isaiah addresses them

As the cry out where is God!

God says through Isaiah:

You have humbled yourself and fasted to find me

But this is not the way to find me

The way to find me is:

set the oppressed free

break every yoke

share food with the hungry

provide homeless shelter

clothe the naked

Then:

Your light will break forth like the dawn

Your healing will appear quickly

Your righteousness goes before you

God's glory will protect your rear-guard

Then you will call - And God will answer

## Do away with

the yoke of oppression

the pointing finger and malicious talk

## Do

Spend yourself on behalf of the hungry

Satisfy the needs of the oppressed

## Also honour the sabbath

Give the people rest

Allow them to spend time with God

## Then the Lord will

guide you always

satisfy our needs

strengthen your frame

## You'll be like

a well watered garden

a spring whose waters never fail

## Your people will

rebuild ancient ruins

raise up old foundations

be called

Repairer of Broken Walls

Restore of Streets with Dwellings

## Then you will find your joy in the world!

## Moulding Culture

Isaiah spoke to the whole people and especially its leaders

We are not in that position - so why is this important for us?

It is because God paints here what he expects of culture

Freedom, Justice, enough food, clothing, housing

Walls that whole: a sense of community

Where people can rely on each other

Towns that have houses that have been restored

Without exception even if the owners are poor or infirm

## We cannot fix that all, but

We can influence

We can set an example

We can live in a way that includes everyone

and where everyone feels they are cared for

Even those outside of our community

Those who are on our frontline

Those who we interact with on a daily/weekly or monthly basis

Work, family, friends, leisure, neighbours

God calls you to be an influencer of culture so that it will be better

## 📖 Final story: Social Justice