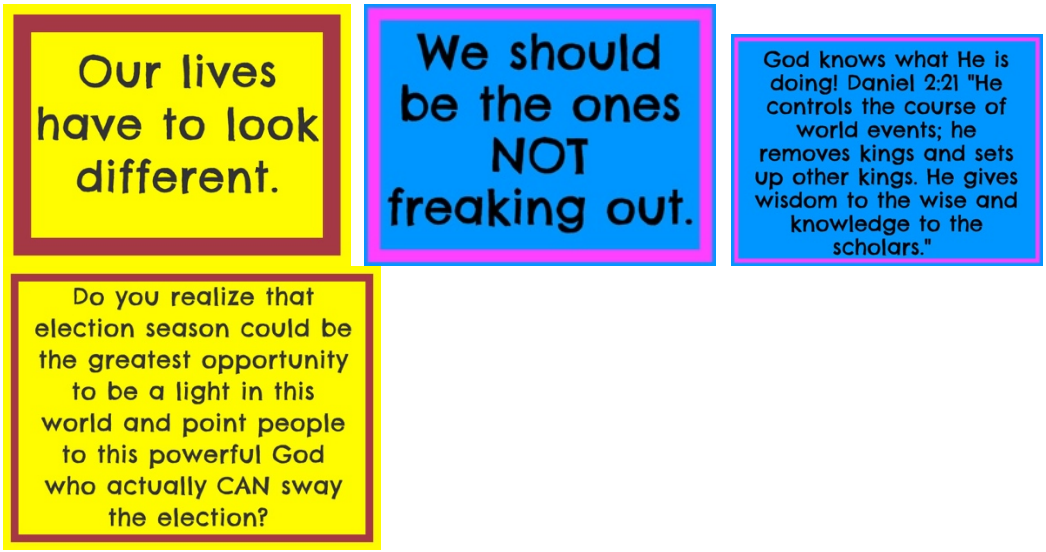
Parables Lesson 26 Handout

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.
Matthew 5:15
15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.

2 Corinthians 2:15 Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing.

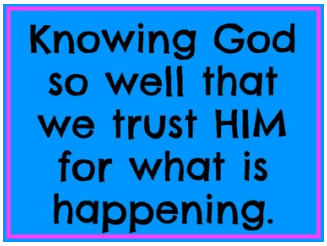
16 To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume.



Daniel 2:21 God controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings.

Psalm 2:1–4
1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

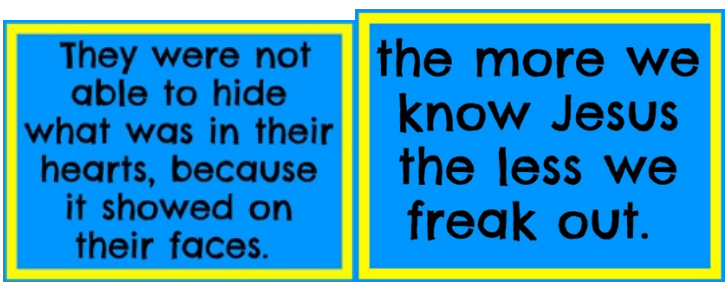
2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.
4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.



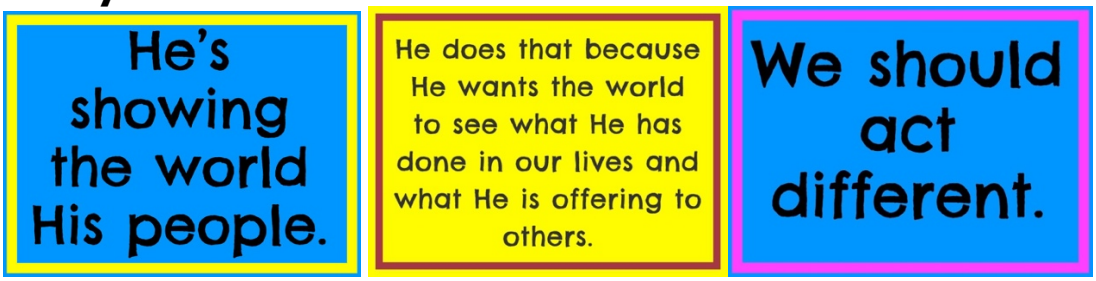
Psalm 47:2 How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth!

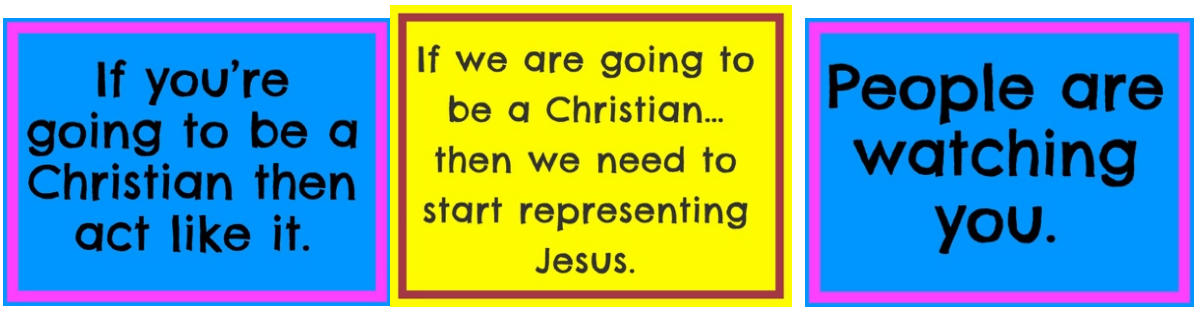
Psalm 47:8
8 God reigns over the nations; God sits upon His holy throne.

Psalm 46:1–3
1 God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.
2 So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea.
3 Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!



2 Corinthians 2: 14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.





Matthew 5:16"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Galatians 5:19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures,

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"Sexual immorality" is from the Greek term *porneia*, a catch-all term referring to any kind of sexual activity outside of biblical marriage. Adultery, bestiality, homosexuality, extramarital sex, promiscuity, and so forth are all covered under this idea.

"Impurity" is from the Greek *akatharsia*, referring to any kind of uncleanness in our thoughts, words, and actions. Thoughts motivated by lust, greed, or excess are part of this group.

"Sensuality" is a broad term, referring to a kind of shameless, open lifestyle that flaunts indulgence in doing anything that feels good, in spite of consequences or morals. The original Greek term, *aselgeia*, carries a sense of being out of control; it suggests a person lacking discipline, or any capacity for self-restraint.

20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division,

Idolatry is the worship of idols and pagan gods. It is the one sin throughout Scripture over which God seems to express the most outrage. It was absolutely common in the world of Paul's day. It's still common today, both directly and in the sense of putting material things above God in our lives. Simply put, Christians should absolutely worship no other god in any way whatsoever.

Next comes "sorcery" or witchcraft. Interestingly, this is from the Greek term *pharmakeia*, related to the term from

which we derive the English word *pharmacy.* This term implies the use of drugs, potions, and poisons, often for the sake of twisting a person's mind or spirit. By extension, the "sorcery" Paul refers to often includes calling on demons or nature in an attempt to access supernatural power without God's help.

Next, Paul lists a group of relationship sins, all of which translate neatly from Greek into English. *Enmity* means hating certain people or groups. *Strife* refers to the stirring up of discord and division. *Jealousy* is self-explanatory. Paul's reference to "fits of anger" is from the word *thymoi*, implying uncontrolled outbursts of emotions such as rage. *Rivalries* are divisions between people driven by selfish ambition. *Dissensions* are those times when we break unity without good cause. *Divisions*, as used here, means unjustly or unfairly "taking sides" against others—this from the same root word used to derive the English word *heresy*, and is sometimes translated as "factions."

21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these.

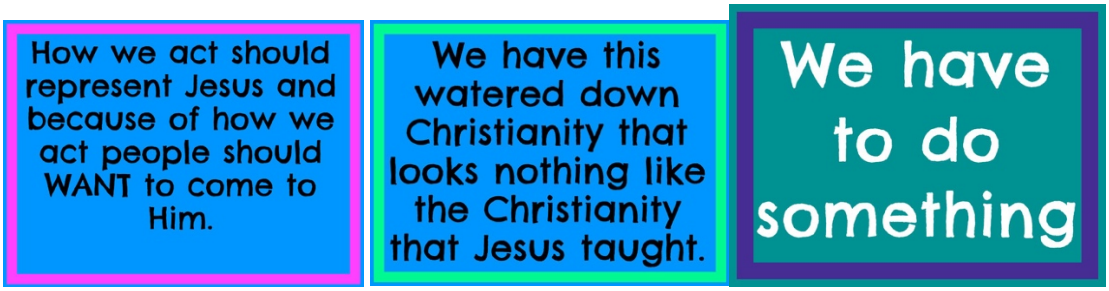
Envy is sometimes described as wanting what someone else has. It can also include resenting people who have the things we want. For Christians in particular, envy implies that we're discontent with what God has given to us.

"Drunkenness" is from the Greek term *methai*, which specifically means the effect of consuming too much alcohol, and by extension, any other mind-altering substance. This is consistent with the approach to alcohol taken by Scripture, which never forbids consumption, but always condemns drunkenness (Ephesians 5:18).

Paul uses the term *komōi*, referring to a popular practice of the Roman world. These were events well-reflected in English terms such as *bacchanals*, or more commonly

as *orgies*. Such parties were wild, alcohol-fueled events featuring all sorts of lewd behavior, excessive eating and drinking, wild dancing, and sexual immorality, sometimes as part of the worship of pagan gods.

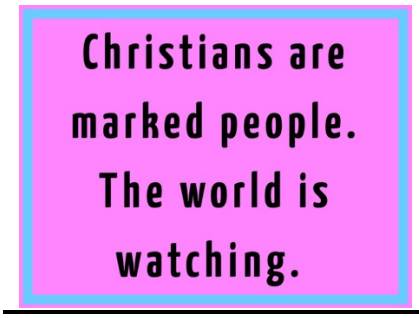
Vs. 21 - Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.



I would argue that this was a watershed moment in the history of American Christianity … nothing spoke more eloquently to believers, and to nonbelievers who were paying attention, than the success of a population of believing volunteers measured against the massive and near-total collapse of secular government efforts.

The storm laid bare an unmistakable truth. More and more Christians have decided that the only way to reconquer America is through service. The faith no longer travels by the word. It moves by the deed.

That's the power of example. One Christian nurse in a hospital, one Christian teacher in a school, one Christian in a shop or in a factory or office.



Matthew 5:16 "They may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5: 13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

We look like everyone else.

Am I "affecting" this world for Jesus or am I being "infected" by the world and nobody sees Jesus.

Creates thirst.

You ARE the salt of the earth. You ARE the light of the world.