

Matthew 5: 13 – 16

'What difference?'

What difference does it make?

Supposing someone was to ask you that question about being a Scout, a Cub Scout or a Beaver Scout?

What difference does it make?

Just pause for a moment and think ... how might you answer that question?

There are two basic types of answer:

For the first type of answer, you could have thought of something along the lines of:

It gives me something to do every week that I like

It gives me a group of friends

I've learnt some skill because I'm a scout

I had a great time at camp

I hope that you did have these kinds of answers ... but I hope too that you didn't stop there ... because all of those answers could be considered a bit selfish ... they're all about what **you get** ... and nothing about what **you give** to others.

Jesus was saying the same kind of thing to his friends and followers in the reading that we just had ... he has reminded them to receive things from him – to get things – but now he teaches them also to give ... to be like salt and light.

So back to that question: "What difference does it make, that you're a Beaver Scout, Cub Scout, or Scout?" You could have thought of things like:

It means that my family get help from me

It means that I support my friends

It means I join in with something that helps my community – like a litter pick

Today – you'll remember that:

Beaver Scouts promise to be kind and helpful

Cub Scouts promise to think of others and to do a good turn every day

Scouts promise to help people

So being a Scout, Cub Scout or Beaver Scout could make a great difference – not just to you ... but to hundreds of people around you. If it doesn't – then Jesus is saying that you're a bit like salt that has lost its taste or a lamp that someone has covered with a basket.

But if you are a Scout, Cub Scout or Beaver Scout who aims to keep the promises when you're out and about – at school, with friends, at home – you'll find that Jesus is there to help you.