

I've never before attended one of these when the ministers in the building outnumber the wedding party. And just so you know, we ministers are all here out of love for Ryan and Sarah, not out of fear that they need all the spiritual help they can get. Quite the contrary. They each possess a deep faith. They believe in the God who made them, and who set them on a path where they might meet each other. That path has meandered quite a bit, and there have been times when they left the path – we all do. Today we are witnesses to a decision Sarah and Ryan have made, and one that we believe pleases the heart of God. If Valentine, the patron saint of matchmaking, is responsible, the angels are probably dousing him in Gatorade™ about now.

During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls his disciples salt and light. In the bible, salt is used for flavor, as a preservative and for purification. It doesn't take much salt to have a profound effect, as I learned one day when I intended to shake parmesan cheese over my pizza, and grabbed garlic salt instead. The potency of a little salt should have comforted the disciples. Jesus addressed crowds; thousands of people heard him speak. But the disciples were few in number when he told them to preach the gospel to all nations. Still, one lamp can brighten an entire room. If there's one small city on an enormous mountain, you can see it. And like a little salt, the disciples flavored the earth with the teaching of Jesus.

Ryan and Sarah, you are disciples of Jesus, and he speaks these words to you: You are salt. You are light. You hold jobs where as individuals you have a tremendous effect on the lives of many others. Your work reflects two aspects of the work of Jesus. Sarah, you heal the sick; Ryan, you announce news. Of course, Jesus announced good news, and we believe that you will be more Christ-like in the seasons to come.

The work you both do reflects Christ, but your lives and your love reflect him as well. You may think your love is a private thing, and that it is large. But love needs to be a public thing, and there are only two of you. There are many who dwell in the darkness of unbelief; they need the light of the gospel. Others live the flavorless lives of selfishness; they need the salt of charity. The task is bigger than the two of you, but you have enough tools to perform it. Love others as a couple in and out of the spotlight. That is the work of Christ.

My brothers and sisters gathered here, God has given each of us the gifts and the opportunities to make an impact in the lives of others. At times it seems we don't have what others have; we don't have the talent, the confidence, the wealth, the looks, the brains, the love or the faith to make an impact. But we're talking salt here, and with even a little bit God can do a lot.