



PART 2: SALT AND LIGHT

Sermon Notes

Text: Matthew 5:13-16

Introduction:

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' inaugural address as he announces the coming of the Kingdom of God.

1. Identity - *who we are*

v. 13, 14 "You *are* the salt of the earth...you *are* the light of the world"

That's because we humans base our identity on our feelings and our actions. God bases our identity on his actions and his Word.

"I am an Olympic champion" ~Simon Whitfield

God's desire for us is to be conformed to the image of his Son, and that is enough.

2. Influence - *what we do*

What we do comes after who we are. Salt and light influence their surrounds because of what they are.

The Church/Christians struggle in two equal but opposite ways:

- i. We conform to culture
- ii. We hide from culture

Jesus' message about Christians being salt and light combat these two struggles.

Salt:

Salt acts as a preservative. Christians are scattered around the world to prevent social, moral and political decay.

v. 13 - Salt can become watered down or mixed with other minerals to lose its saltiness. Similarly, Christians can lose the properties that make them uniquely Christian (and become conformed to culture).

Light:

Light dispels darkness.

v. 14, 15 - No one hides a lamp under a bowl, but Christians will often hide their light (hiding from culture).

3. Invitation - *why we do it*

v. 16 - Jesus clarifies that light is our "good works". But he's referring to good works that are uniquely possible for his followers.

Matthew 5:11-15 - Jesus calls us salt a light in the context of suffering and persecution. The only way our light shines uniquely is when we act so differently that people must come to the conclusion that we have treasure somewhere else other than in our "stuff"

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Warm up: Many kids (and even many adults!) are afraid of the dark. Were you afraid of the dark as a kid? What were your childhood fears? How did you overcome them?
2. How useful and valuable are salt and light in your life? What does that say about our usefulness and value in God's kingdom?

Study & Discussion:

1. The Church/Christians struggle in two equal but opposite ways: i. We conform to culture. ii. We hide from culture. What are the symptoms of each of these struggles? How do Jesus' metaphors of salt and light combat these errors?
2. Light is a powerful theme throughout all of scripture. Read the following passages and discuss how the metaphor of light is used: John 8:12; Isaiah 9:2 (Matthew 4:16); Luke 11:33-36; John 1:1-14; 1 John 1:5-7. Can you think of other verses that use light as a metaphor?
3. The Gospel of Luke has many parallel passages to Matthew's version of the Sermon on the Mount. Read Luke 8:16-18 for a parallel passage on this week's scripture. What similarities and differences do you notice? What other lessons do we get from Luke's version?

Application:

1. Pastor Dave said that Christianity is not primarily about what we do; it is first about who we are. *Identity* (who we are) leads to *Influence* (what we do), which leads to an *Invitation* (why we do it). Do you

agree with this? Why or why not? How do people normally form their identity? How should believers form their identity? What is one aspect of your identity in Christ that you need to start declaring over yourself today?

Prayer:

1. Pray an understanding of our *identity* in Christ, for greater *influence* in the world around us, and for many to accept the *invitation* to enter the kingdom of God.
2. Other requests
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