

Discussion Guide

Isuwa Atsen

Message: *Making a Difference* (series: *Sermon On the Mount*)

February 18, 2024

PRIMARY PASSAGE: Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)

"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.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHT

Jesus calls His followers to a life that makes a difference in society. We are not called to just come to church every Sunday and then live our private lives as we wait to go to heaven.

Instead, we are called to participate in public life in ways that will make a positive godly impact, no matter how little. Our godly character and Christ-like acts should be evident to all around us in order to direct their attention to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean for Christians to be the salt of the earth? In what practical ways can we achieve that today?
2. What is the only condition under which salt might lose its saltiness, and how does that apply to effective Christian witness?
3. What do you think about the distinction made in the sermon between being the light of the world and being the eyes of the world? Is this helpful or unhelpful?
4. In what ways would you say that Christians today try to be the eyes of the world, rather than just the light of the world as Jesus commanded?
5. Where and how do you see yourself functioning as salt and light? What difference is it making or would make if you were to start living as salt and light?

Lord God Almighty, please forgive us for our failure in being salt and light of the neighborhoods and other public spaces we are part of. Help us, O Lord, to live our lives in ways that call the attention of people, not to us, but to You. Use us to produce peace where there is animosity, to show mercy rather than vengeance, and bring healing to the brokenness around us. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen!