

Salt and Light

Sunday, March 5, 2017

I. Introduction

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

A. As His disciples, Jesus calls us to be people of influence.

He tells us that:

1. We are to be people who influence.
2. We are to be people who illuminate.

B. There are two things that are non-negotiable when you read the New Testament.

1. We are called to be a disciple.
2. We are called to make disciples.

C. Being a disciple and making a disciple can't be something that is weak or shallow.

Matthew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

II. We are influence.

A. We are the salt of the earth.

B. There are four ways that we are to be an influence in our world.

1. We are to add flavor to our world.

- Our wisdom and spiritual understanding, based on our relationship with the Lord and our knowledge of Scripture, is a vital element in our world.

2. As salt, we preserve the world.

3. We are a purifier in our world.

- As proclaimers of God's truth, we are to make clear that His standards are higher than that of our society's' standards.
- What good is it, if someone confessing to be a follower of Christ, shows no concern for the spiritual well-being of those around them?
- What good is it, if someone confessing to be one of Jesus disciples, are not actively trying to make a difference in the world?

4. We are not to be influenced by the world around us.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.
 - ~ We should never let our culture dictate who we are as Christians.
 - ~ We should never allow our society to press us into its mold.
- Jesus did not shed His blood so that we could be like everybody else.
 - ~ Jesus has called us to be difference makers.
 - ~ Jesus has called us to set the tone.

III. We Are To Be Illuminating

- *Where there is light, people can find their way and everything is clear; where there is darkness, they stumble and are lost.*

A. We need to be shining brightly for Jesus.

Philippians 2:15 so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky

B. Believers are now the light of the world.

1. Unless we are the light of the world, the world will always be in darkness.
2. Unless we reflect Jesus to the world, it will always stumble around in the darkness.
3. Unless we reflect the light of Jesus, the world will never know the truth.

C. Jesus has given us a job in this world, and that is to shine.

- Don't try to hide it or let it go out. Shine, shine, shine!

IV. Conclusion

A. Jesus has called us to be people that:

1. Influence
2. Illuminate

B. What are you doing with your life?

1. Are you influencing others, or are they influencing you?
2. Are you illuminating others darkness, or is there darkness extinguishing your flame?

C. Be what you have been called to be - a difference maker.