

THE BEATITUDES

MATTHEW 5:13-16



OPENING

- Discuss the passage as a whole (Matthew 5:1-16), especially considering how it has impacted each group member. Give thanks to God in prayer for what he has spoken!

SERMON REVIEW

- Jesus caps the Beatitudes with a challenge to be salt and light.
- Matthew 5:13, “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.”
- Have you ever added value to the people or circumstances around you?
- Salt preserves and enriches. It adds flavor and value.
- Our responsibility as transformed people is to enrich the world.
- A very little bit of salt can make a profound difference.
- Jesus warns us about losing our saltiness and becoming ineffective. Salt when used properly is beneficial, but when hoarded and consumed in a selfish manner can damage one's heart.
- Matthew 5:14-16, “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.”
- This is a calling to live life in plain sight. Are you letting what Christ has done in you shine? Or are you hiding that light?
- We are supposed to repel the darkness.
- Jesus calls us to “come and follow” him as citizens of his kingdom. We’re called to live the Beatitudes with a right heart, on mission like salt and light.

DISCUSSION

- How does lose its saltiness? What is “unsalty” salt?
- What does an “unsalty” Christian look like? How can we remain “salty”?
- Discuss the images of a hilltop town and a lamp on a stand. How do these images help you understand the lifestyle of a Christ-follower?
- Why should you “let your light shine before others”? What’s the point?
- How do you “let your light shine”? Practically speaking, how does one do that?
- Do you find one (that is, *be salt* or *be light*) more challenging than the other?
- How are the two both different and similar?
- In what ways can you be salt and light simultaneously in everyday life?

CHALLENGE

- Figure out how you can enrich your family, neighborhood, and workplace! Share that idea or plan with at least one other believer.
- Identify some of the dark areas in your life, and begin to shine light there.

PLAN AHEAD

- Continue to pray that your group members would be able to live according to the principles of kingdom life that are presented here in Matthew 5:1-16.