

February 7, 2021

Salt the Earth. Light the World.

Matthew 5:11-16

Two Natural Temptations in the Face of Persecution:

Matthew 5:11-12 / Matthew 10:32-33

1. **BE DISCOURAGED**
2. **HIDE!**

Salt was used for:

Matthew 5:13 / Exodus 20:7 / Colossians 4:5-6

- **PURITY**
- **FLAVOR**
- **PRESERVATIVE**

Principles of Light:

Matthew 5:14-16 / Isaiah 42:6-7

- Light **OVERPOWERS** darkness.
- Light **ILLUMINATES**.
- Light **SHINES** - it cannot be **HIDDEN**.

Jesus' followers are to play a **VISIBLE** role in society as agents of the Kingdom of God.

Life Group Questions

- 1) QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question?
- 2) One of the questions we were asked to consider this week was "what am I known for?" How are we going to be light? What are we going to engage in as a LifeGroup?

Are you known for being more religious or more loving?"

DIGGING DEEPER

1. As a follower of Christ, God's light in us not only gives us an accurate perception of life and truth, but it also impacts others for Christ. Paul uses an illustration other than salt or light to show how God uses us to impact others in **2 Corinthians 2:14-15**. As you read the illustration, how is it similar and different to the illustration of the impact of light?

How does keeping in mind both of these illustrations affect how you live and think?

2. Part of being salt and light is balancing between being kind and gracious toward others to show God's love (light) and remaining pure and preserving God's perspective in the world (salt). How do the following verses help us balance out what sometimes seems to be two opposing concepts?

Matthew 18:15

Ephesians 4:3, 29, 32

Luke 17:3-4

What challenges have you had balancing between the two?

3. God's light in our lives results in his love shown to others through our words and actions. Read **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** replacing the word "love" with your own name. Now take a minute to consider how true this is of your relationships with your friends, family or co-workers.

Is there one or two you think you're doing OK at?

Are there any that need attention?

Consider the questions below to help answer this question:

Am I harsh?
(Almost never) 1 ---- 2 ---- 3 ---- 4 ---- 5 (Often)

Am I cynical?
(Almost never) 1 ---- 2 ---- 3 ---- 4 ---- 5 (Often)

Do I have to win?
(Almost never) 1 ---- 2 ---- 3 ---- 4 ---- 5 (Often)

Am I self-centered?
(Almost never) 1 ---- 2 ---- 3 ---- 4 ---- 5 (Often)

Do I have a short fuse?
(Almost never) 1 ---- 2 ---- 3 ---- 4 ---- 5 (Often)

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back on this week's sermon and study, what's most important for you to remember?

Take some time and ask God to show you who He is preparing for a conversation about Jesus.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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