

Salt and Light

Riverside Youth Bible Study

March 29, 2020

Matthew 5:13-16

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.*

¹⁴ *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

This passage in Matthew is an excerpt from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which can be found in Matthew chapters 5-7. These verses are sandwiched in between the beatitudes (which means the blessings) and the declaration that Jesus did not come to abolish the law, but rather He is the fulfillment of all the law and the prophets of the old testament.

Jesus is speaking directly to his disciples here, telling them to be the salt of the earth and light of the world. Salt was a necessary part of the offerings made in this time, all grain offerings were to be seasoned with salt (Leviticus 2:13) and the priests were to sprinkle it on all burnt offerings as well (Ezekiel 43:24). Salt was also widely used then as it is now, as both a preservative and a seasoning. Salt is both very common, and also quite unique.

What do you think it means for us as Christians that Jesus is telling his disciples to be the salt of the earth?

It also says that if salt loses its saltiness, it is no longer useful. What do you think Jesus is warning against here? How might a disciple lose their 'saltiness'?

Jesus also refers to himself as the Light of the World in scripture (John 8:12). Here He is inviting us to shine that same light to everyone around us. In the midst of this pandemic, there are still people all around us shining their light. Name 3 people or groups of people who have been a light over the past month, and talk about what that light looked like.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Name 3 ways that you can be a light to the world in your community over the next couple of weeks:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

My prayer for you today comes from John 12:35-36

³⁵ Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. ³⁶ Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light."