

When The Kingdom Comes
“**Salty and Totally Lit!**”
The Sermon on the Mount #3
Matthew 5:13-20

INTRODUCTION

This week we continue our study of the Sermon on the Mount by examining how God’s people should affect the world around them. If Christ has changed our lives, then those who see us, should see something different, something unique, something the world cannot offer. Jesus makes us salt and light.

Ice Breaker (Optional – 8 MIN): Which would you choose- a week without salt, or a day without light? Why?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Read Matthew 5:13-20 in your Bibles.

Q1. Read Mat 5:13, 1 Timothy 4:12

If, as believers, we are to “salt” our world, we will be thoroughly scrutinized by others. Why is it important for us to remain “pure” (uncontaminated)? What are the consequences of not remaining pure in terms of our witness?

Q2. Read James 1:27, Romans 12:21

The decay of the world presses in all around us. If we are not actively expressing our “saltiness” we are at risk of being overcome by evil. What does James suggest in order to express “saltiness” in a practical way? What are some other ways you can touch the world for Christ?

Q3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, Romans 12:9-13

If you ever go on a salt-free diet you will appreciate the pleasure a little salt can bring. Why do you think it is important to bring the “flavors” in these passages to the world?

Q4. Read Matthew 5:46-47, 1 Peter 2:12

Matthew 5:13 warns us about becoming tasteless (*mōrainō*) lest we are indistinguishable from the rest of the world and worthless. Name some situations where we might be tempted to yield to conformity. *mōrainō*- to make tasteless or to make foolish

Q5. Read Matthew 5:14-16, John 8:12, 2 Corinthians 3:18

These passages differentiate between the light source (Jesus) and the reflection (us) of the light. What things might prevent us from clearly reflecting Christ to others?

Q6. Isaiah 30:10-11, John 3:19

Assuming you are respectful, gracious and kind; what reactions can you expect when you shine the truth of God into someone else’s darkness?

WRAP-UP

There is a personal cost to being salt and light. We will not always be welcome. But there is also a reason for us to be salt and light. We do this so that, through what we do, we can direct praise to our heavenly Father.

Memory Verse

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 NIV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs:

Challenge: Identify someone in your group who is being salt and light this week and tell them what you see in him/her that causes you to praise God, who they reflect.

Q1.

Matthew 5:13 NIV - 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 by men.

1 Timothy 4:12 NIV - 12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Q2.

James 1:27 NIV - 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Romans 12:21 NIV - 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Q3.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 NIV - 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Romans 12:9-13 NIV - 9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Q4.

Matthew 5:46-47 NIV - 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

1 Peter 2:12 NIV - 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Q5.

Matthew 5:14-16 NIV - 14 "You are the light of the world. A city 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 men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

John 8:12 NIV - 12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV - 18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Q6. Ephesians 5:13 NIV - 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

Isaiah 30:10-11 NIV - 10 They say to the seers, "See no more visions!" and to the prophets, "Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions. 11 Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!"

John 3:19 NIV - 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.