

Salt and Light

Matthew 5:13-16

What does it mean to be the salt of the earth? (5:13)

Salt gives flavor to food, and preserves food. But here Jesus only mentions the issue of flavor — taste. So being salt of the earth means giving people a taste of the Father's glory through our good works — our words and deeds.

What does it mean to be the light of the world? (5:14-16)

It means that we give people the light of the Father's glory through our good works — our words and deeds.

Why is this so important? (5:16)

It's because as we do this people will glory to our Father who is in heaven — which means they will be saved.

What can keep us from being salt? (5:13)

Losing our taste — losing our passion for Jesus, our love for God, and zeal for His glory.

How can we regain our taste?

Go back to the first two beatitudes — and pray over them until you feel the Holy Spirit so comforting your heart with forgiveness and love and joy that you taste salty.

What can keep us from being light? (5:14-16)

Hiding our light — not connecting with people who don't know Jesus, or connecting with them but hiding our love for Jesus.

How can we stop hiding our light?

Go back to the the previous section on persecution, and pray over it until you feel love for the lost and increasing boldness. Then ask Jesus how you can shine his light to those around you — and step out in obedience.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

What do you struggle with the most — losing your taste — or hiding your light?

Why causes you to lose your taste?

Why causes you to hide your light?

How have you dealt with this before?

Does it make sense that saltiness will be restored as you pray over the first two beatitudes? Why or why not?

Does it make sense that boldness in being light will be restored as you pray over Mat 5:10-12? Why or why not?

What are you going to do differently because of these Scriptures?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

MERCY HILL CHURCH SPRING-SUMMER 2012