

Milestone 4: Equip

Jon Sherman, Lead Pastor

5.17.2015

Matthew 5:13-16

SAY WHAT? ⇒ Salt & light, Taste & See

- Being the "salt of the earth" is about attraction.

Colossians 4:6, Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

- Being the "light of the world" is about illumination.

Acts 13:47, "For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

SO WHAT? ⇒ Jesus' warnings for His witnesses

- Don't lose your flavor; stay salty.

Job 6:6-7, "Is tasteless food eaten without salt...? I refuse to touch it; such food makes me ill."

- Don't lose your brightness; stay engaged.

John 17:18, "Just as you sent Me into the world, I am sending them into the world."

NOW WHAT? ⇒ Tools for the trade

Eph. 4:11-12, It was He who gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry...

Connection Group Questions

Taken from the sermon on May 17, 2015

Milestone 4: Equip -Matthew 5:13-16

■ Questions for “Group Discussion”

- Who has been “salt and light” on your journey of faith and why?
- What helps you stay “salty” in your daily life?
- How can we encourage one another to be salty to our families and to our neighbors.

■ Questions for “Personal Growth”

- **Monday-Are you well preserved?** Please read our primary passage, Matthew 5:13-16. First, let’s consider why Jesus applied the word “salt” to His followers. Think about how salt was used in biblical times. As a preservative, its primary purpose was to keep food from spoiling and stop the spread of decay. Please read 2 Corinthians 13:5. Why would examining our own faith be imperative before one can “equip” others or act as a role model, a “preservative” for His purposes?
- **Tuesday-Are you the real deal?** A “Christian” is understood to mean “Christ-follower”, yet many who claim this title pick and choose which ways they choose to “follow after” Him. From Scripture, we know that the way we live should aid in stopping the spread of sin. Now, please look up the definition of hypocrisy and then read Romans 2:3; James 1:26-27; 1 John 2:4; 4:20 and Titus 1:16. What does this teach you about “talking the talk yet not walking the walk”?
- **Wednesday-The saltier, the better...** As we also learned from Pastor Sherm on Sunday, another use of salt was to add flavor. And salt, in particular, creates a natural thirst. What does Jesus tell us in John 7:37? What would cause those watching you to “thirst” for Jesus, to desire for themselves what they see in you? Please read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. How might the demonstration of our faith, especially in troubling times, cause people to take notice and see Christ in us?
- **Thursday-This little light of mine...** Going back to Matthew 5:13-16, what is the second comparison made to describe His followers? What does this passage tell us about how we, as His light, are supposed to function in this dark world? Please read John 8:12 and 9:5. How do you reconcile that Jesus calls Himself the light of the world, but also described us in that same “light”? What then is the true source of power to love, guide, equip and be a light in the world?
- **Friday-All for His glory...** Please read Isaiah 42:5-9, keeping Matthew 5:13-16 in mind. What similarities do you see between the two passages? What are the good works that others will see and from where do they come? Are you ever tempted to take the glory that is His when doing good works? When is a lamp or flashlight most appreciated? Be encouraged. In the darkest of times, you can shine even brighter for God.