

Discussion Questions – 10/10/21

Change the World with Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)

Here are three basic questions you can always ask in any bible study:

- What does this text teach us about God?
- What does this text teach us about ourselves?
- If this text is true, what should we do to obey this teaching? This answer ought to be specific in that it can be clearly measured.

Here are some specific questions concerning the sermon text:

- How would you describe the condition of the world at large today?
 - Are you encouraged or discouraged?
 - Does it feel like it's improving or degrading?
- When Jesus calls us to be salt and light, He is stating categorically that believers (members of His kingdom) can bring spiritual health to a broken world.
 - Is this difficult for you to believe?
- Salt is only effective if it is fundamentally different from the material or surface it is attached to. Salt can only work if it is in contact some other material or surface.
 - How different are we called to be as members of Christ's kingdom (salt of the earth)?
 - Look at the sermon on the mount to see how different we are to be as salt.
 - Poor in Spirit rather than self-assured
 - Mourning for our sin rather than seeking joy/pleasure
 - Meek - focusing on others needs ahead of ours
 - Hungering and thirsting for righteousness
 - Undivided heart focused on Christ and His kingdom
 - Peacemakers not dividers
 - Ready to suffer for Christ
 - You can also look at the whole Sermon on the Mount to see what salt should look like.
 - Dealing with our anger
 - Loving our enemy
 - Dealing with our impurity
 - Giving to the needy

- Fasting
 - Praying
 - Not worrying
 - Not judging others
- Who are you with enough that your 'salt' could bring spiritual change?
- Light is only effective if it is not covered.
 - How do you 'cover' your light?
- In some ways, being salt and light means that we simply live out our kingdom lives with others (who may not know Christ) and that simply being who we already are by grace can actually work to bring change to those around us.
 - Do you find this hard to believe?
 - What part of salt and light needs to be more consistent in your life?