

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

July 2013

The Sermon on the Mount

Lesson #2: The Salt and Light of the World

INTRODUCTION

Rick Warren, the author of The Purpose Driven Life, goes against the grain of political correctness. And yet he has been described as one of the most influential people in the world? Why?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Matt 5:13-16

Note: The “are” in verses 13 and 14 states a fact, a state of being created by a relationship to Christ. Jesus, the source (Jn 9:5), is asking if we are tasteful salt and effective light. Salt and light are distinctly unlike that which they are to change.

1. How does Matthew describe Christians?
2. Who is the “you” in verses 13 & 14? What is the impact of multiple grains of salt and light?
3. What makes them salty? Why (& how) would they “lose” it (become contaminated)?

Note: Salt has always been valuable in human society, often much more so than it is today. During a period of ancient Greek history it was called “theon,” which means divine. The Romans held that, except for the sun, nothing was more valuable than salt. Often Roman soldiers were paid in salt, and it was from that practice that the expression “not worth his salt” originated.¹

4. If salt is supposed to add flavor, why are so many Christians boring and stifling?
5. Why does the light drive out darkness (instead of the dark consuming the light)? Gen 1:1-3; Jn 1:1-5
6. When someone accepts Christ, why do they get to stay in this world? John 17:15-16; 18; 1 Jn 2:15
7. How can we tell if we have the right balance between love for God and love for man? 2 Cor 2:14-16; 1 Pet 2:9

APPLICATION

- Some people say that Christianity is a set of social guidelines to create an orderly society. Others say that the Christian life is impossible because the standards are too high. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, no one can follow Christ’s teachings. How can you live in the power of the Spirit to be the influence that God has designed for you and His glory?

Woodrow Wilson told the story of being in a barbershop one time. “I was sitting in a barber chair when I became aware that a powerful personality had entered the room. A man had come quietly in upon the same errand as myself to have his hair cut and sat in the chair next to me. Every word the man uttered, though it was not in the least didactic, showed a personal interest in the man who was serving him. And before I got through with what was being done to me I was aware I had attended an evangelistic service, because Mr. D. L. Moody was in that chair. I purposely lingered in the room after he had left and noted the singular affect that his visit had brought upon the barber shop. They talked in undertones. They did not know his name, but they knew something had elevated their thoughts, and I felt that I left that place as I should have left a place of worship.”²

^{1 2} MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1985). *Matthew*. MacArthur New Testament Commentary (241, 236). Chicago: Moody Press.