

Words of the King: Matthew 5:13-16
Discussion Guide, October 25, 2020
Next week's text: Matthew 5:17-20

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 5:3-10

- How did you practically "hunger and thirst for righteousness" this past week?

OPEN:

- Have you ever thought of yourself as an influencer? Why or why not?

READ and ASK: Matthew 5:13-16

- What did Jesus mean when he called his followers salt?
 - o What effect does salt have on food? (especially think about how much more important it would have been in pre-refrigeration days?)
- What does Jesus teach about his follower's influence?
 - o What does Jesus imply when he says salt that loses its saltiness is useless?
 - o How can a Christian lose his or her saltiness?
- How are Jesus's followers to be like light?
 - o What kinds of behavior should other people see Christians exhibiting?
 - o How might a Christian hide their light?
 - o If Christians live as they are supposed to, how will others respond?
- What specific behaviors mark the lifestyle of a salty, shining Christian?

APPLY:

- In light of this passage, how do you need to view yourself as an influencer?
- While this text certainly requires individual application, it refers to a “city” built on a hill. That means that we collectively are to be salt and light, how can we as a church community influence our community for Christ’s cause?
- This text teaches that Christians are to live a winsome lifestyle. To be winsome is to have a character that is appealing to others. In what ways do you need to live more winsomely?
 - o NEXT STEP: In what way do you need to intentionally live as salt and light this week?

Memory Work:

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

- Matthew 5:14-16