



People of Influence

Matthew 5:13-16

Roger Poppen – February 22, 2015
Series Theme: Lessons From The Master ('Sermon on the Mount' - Matthew 5-7)

Matthew 5:13 – ***“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.”***

- The context: the _____ of authentic disciples who inwardly _____ and outwardly manifest _____ character (5:3-12).
- The connection: the type of life that brings persecution from the world will also _____ influence the world.
- ***“You ARE.....”*** – a _____, not a command.
- Salt’s function:
 - a _____ role
 - a _____ role
 - a _____ role
- Principle: as ‘salt’ we impact society by _____ and preserving what is good and by _____ corruption and decay.
- How? By developing and manifesting beatitude-filled _____ and _____.
 - **“The norms of the kingdom worked out in the lives of the heirs of the kingdom, constitute the witness of the kingdom”** (Danny Hall)
- Caution: salt can become _____ and useless.

Matthew 5:14-16 – ***“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”***

- See John 8:12; 9:5; 12:35; Ephesians 5:8; Philippians 2:14-15
- Light’s function: _____ what’s in the _____.
- How? _____ in Jesus and _____ Him. (John 8:12; 12:35-36)
- See the connection between light and _____.
- Caution: light can become _____.

Summary: As followers of Jesus growing in beatitude character, we will have a positive influence on our _____ and _____ world.

- As salt – we have the ministry of _____.
- As light – we have the ministry of _____.

(The following quote and questions are from the “LifeGuide Bible Study” on the Sermon on the Mount by John Stott, chapter 2)

“What possible influence could the people described in the Beatitudes exert in this hard, tough world? What lasting good can the poor and the meek do, the mourners and the merciful - those who seek peace and not war? Would they not be overwhelmed by the flood of evil? What can they accomplish – whose only passion is righteousness and whose only weapon is purity of heart? Are not such people too feeble to achieve anything? Jesus does not share this skepticism, as this passage demonstrates. He expects us to have a profound influence on those around us. Read Matthew 5:13-16.”

Notes:

1. What positive qualities of salt and light do you think Jesus had in mind as he spoke these words?
2. Before refrigeration, salt was used to keep meat from rotting. What then does Jesus' statement "You are the salt of the earth" (v.13) tell us about society and the church's role in it?
3. What has been in the news lately that indicates society is rotting and decaying?
4. What are some practical ways we can function as salt where we live and work (v.13)?
5. What might cause Christians to lose their saltiness (v.13)?
6. Jesus' second statement is "You are the light of the world" (v.14). As salt we prevent decay, the spread of evil. How does the church's role as light complement its role as salt?
7. How can we positively promote the spread of truth in the world?
8. How might we be tempted to hide our light (v.15)?
9. What is the result, according to Jesus, of people seeing our good deeds (v.16)?
10. What examples can you think of where the work of Christians has brought people closer to God?
11. What relationship do you see between the Beatitudes and our role as salt and light in society?
12. What is one way you can begin having a stronger influence as salt and as light?