

Church People Are The Worst... | You Are the Bible for Some | Week 4

Matthew 5:13-16

INTRODUCTION

The early Christians in Rome did not have it easy. They were persecuted, blamed for crimes they didn't commit, and even fed to lions. Yet Jesus painted an encouraging picture of their circumstances. He said they were "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world." While they were simply trying to stay alive, Jesus was saying they had been strategically placed by God. Could this be true of your life and your circumstances too? You are the only Bible some people will ever read.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What is the brightest light you have ever seen? How did you feel in the presence of that bright light?
- Would you rather be in the presence of light or surrounded by darkness? Why?
- What do most people associate with light?

SERMON NOTES REVIEW

Looking back at your sermon notes from this weekend's teaching, was there anything said that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

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GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Who is somebody in your life that was a good representation of Jesus and helped you meet Him?

2. **Read John 1:4-5, 1 John 1:5-7, and Ephesians 5:8-13.**

- What does the New Testament teach about who is associated with light?
- How have you shared the light of Jesus with those who are walking in darkness?
- What was the biggest challenge in sharing the light of Jesus?

3. **Read Matthew 5:16.**

- Do your good works cause people to give glory to God or to yourself?
- How can you make sure that the glory always goes to God?

4. As the salt and light of the world, we can bring truth, joy, and good works of love to those around us. What do people in your life most need right now?

5. Robert stated to represent Jesus, we need to spend time with Him, learn His ways, and do what Jesus would do.

- What is your daily/weekly routine that allows you to represent Jesus well?
- If you don't have one, what is one thing you can start to do tomorrow to change this?

6. The metaphor of salt implies a connectedness or engagement in culture.

- In what ways do you see God already working through Christians to be Salt and Light in our culture?
- Can you identify an area of your life where God is pressing you to be more "salty?"

7. Robert stated, "there is no plan B." The church is God's representation in the world by the way we talk to people and by the way we love people. Does this excite you or scare you? Why?

8. It's always right to invite people to a worship service at Sun Valley.

- Who invited you to Sun Valley?
- Who have you invited to service at Sun Valley?
- Who is someone you could invite to service in the coming weeks?

PRAYER

We pray the light of Jesus in our hearts may shine brightly before our community in such a way they may see the good works we do through Your power and strength. Help us to be mindful that without You, we can do nothing. In the strength and power of Your Spirit, we are enabled to serve those in need. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mother's Day Weekend at Sun Valley is May 8/9.