

A Fearless Life

Matthew 5.13-16

Overview

You are the Salt of the Earth...but don't lose your taste:

A. Salt:

1. Some believe salt is being used here as a word for a curative or preservation
2. Jesus is saying that Christians are to be preservatives to the world of darkness:
 - a. We are to keep things from being more spoiled
3. Others believe salt is being used here to connote flavor:
 - a. Jesus references flavor in the next sentence
 - b. Jesus' words here and in the next paragraph are more offensive in nature, less defensive:
 - i. Flavor would indicate more offensiveness where preservation indicates more defense
4. Christ is calling Christians to move into the world with Flavor/Life

B. Lost its taste...

1. Jesus is providing a warning for those that ARE salt
 - a. Those that are lazy in being salty stand to lose their taste and be no longer good for anything except to be thrown out
 - i. Jesus doesn't say they become something else...they are still salt, they just don't have any flavor
- 2 This would mean we must engage the things that make us salt and go about being salt to the world...in so far as we don't, we stand to lose our taste
 - a. The local church's responsibility is to help disciples not lose their taste

You are the Light of the World...don't hide so that glory may come to God:

A. Light:

1. Jesus is the Light: John 1.4-5, 8.12:
 - a. He shares His light with us as we trust in Him
2. No merely moral or mission...its both:
 - a. We are to be the ambassadors of the Kingdom of Heaven (2 Cor. 5.20)
3. As they see 'good deeds' there has to be something about those 'good deeds' that would have them to draw a line to God, therefore our deeds must be coupled with words that explain why we are doing what we are doing
 - a. The true goal is to bring glory to God who is in heaven

B. Not hidden

1. Jesus' ministry was in no way private, therefore our faith cannot likewise be private
2. We are told to not hide it and to "let it shine before others"
 - a. Therefore, we ought not be 'afraid of the dark' since we have been given the Light

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Share some stories from the news where there is apparent darkness and need of light.*

1. What does Jesus (and Matthew) mean here by Salt? How would you determine that? Do you see any connection between this and the prior Beatitudes?
2. How is it possible to “lose your taste” as a disciple? (Note the “YOU ARE salt”) How does the church help in keeping us full of flavor?
3. What does Jesus mean by here by light?
4. Why would Jesus make clear that we are to not hide our light? How does the church help in keeping us full of light?
5. In what ways are you tempted to hide your light?
6. How is the Lord impressing upon you to be salt and light?

Accountability Question: *What are some ways you have been encouraged by others that have faithfully obeyed these?*

Are there some situations that you need accountability/prayer in following up on being salt and light?