

You are Salt and Light

Long Beach Alliance Church • January 24, 2016 • Pastor Jesse Duckett

“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.

“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.”

Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)

1) Salt

2) Light

3) The _____ News

4) The _____ News

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5) So What?

GROWTH GROUP GUIDE • WEEK 3: MATTHEW 5:13-16

OPENER

"I'm always amazed that people take what I say seriously. I don't even take what I am seriously." – David Bowie

Do the people in and around your life have a reason to take you seriously? Do you even have reason to take yourself seriously?

BIBLE STUDY

Read through Matthew 5:13-16

1. What did Jesus intend His disciples to be?
2. What happens if salt loses its taste?
3. What is the point of being light?

Read through Genesis 12:1-3

1. What did God call Abram to do?
2. What did God promise Abram?
3. What was the big picture for God's call on Abram?

Read through what God says about Saul's Conversion in Acts 9:11-16

1. Why did God save Saul?
2. What was Saul's life going to be like?
3. Do you think it's fair of God to save people to suffer for Him in this life?

DISCUSSION

1. Can you think of a time you belonged to a group of people where you were either immediately accepted into it or had certain expectations in order to stay? What do you think the difference is between these groups? Which would you want to be part of?
2. Do you think we are a church, you are a Growth Group, and you are a person who allows people to feel like they belong before they believe and behave a certain way? Do we/you trust that God's Spirit will change their behavior as He changes their beliefs? What is our role in that process?
3. How's your saltiness? What's your light pointing at? With serious reflection, share where you are with these things with your group and experience God's grace together by listening well and giving grace. If there is anything that needs to be confessed, now would be a great time.

MAKING ROOM TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Are there things you need to be honest about and repentant about in your heart toward your unbelieving friends? Have you been salt and light to them? Do you need to be humble and confess and apologize to your unbelieving friends for anything?

CLOSING PRAYER

Close with this prayer as a group:

"Lord, sometimes I may feel strong, but where it counts, I confess that I am weak. I need You in those places. Please forgive my hypocrisy, and please teach me humility. I cannot be who I want to be, and I admit that I often pretend that I am the person I want to be, rather than the person I am. I know You are working to make me new. Please teach me repentance, and please give me opportunities to have transparent relationships with people. May You be glorified when I am bright and salty, and please be faithful to transform me."

