

Jan 22- Matthew 5:13-16 "The Glorious Power of Salt & Light"

Read Matthew 5:13-16.

1. What are some of the ways that you have felt the heartache of the world lately? What was your reaction?
2. Why did Jesus follow the Beatitudes with this immediate pronouncement of salt and light?
3. In the sermon on Sunday, two aspects of salt were discussed: as a flavour-enhancer, and as a preservative/healing agent. How does this work as a metaphor for Christians? Did one of these stand out to you more, or hold more resonance for you as a metaphor for a Christ-follower? Why?
4. What do you think about the idea that salt can't lose its saltiness? Do you think this is what Jesus was getting at in verse 13? If not, why not? If so, how does this idea free us for ministry in the world?
5. It is easy to understand the metaphor of hiding a light under a basket. Have you ever found yourself playing down the fact that you are a Christian? Why is this a tempting thing to do in our culture? What are some of the reasons it's hard to 'come clean' about our faith?
6. What are some ways you have seen Christians acting as salt or light around you, or around the world? Do you see places in your own communities that could use some 'flavouring', 'preserving', or have the light of the understanding of the gospel shed on them?