

Thornbury Baptist: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 1/5/16

Speaker: Paul Ferguson

Title: Sermon on the Mount: Salty and Shiny

Introduction: This talk focuses on how we are called to live out the beautiful kingdom of God life vividly painted in the Sermon on the Mount.

Review: (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

Read: Matthew 5:13-16

Reflect:

- Paul talked about how God had assigned a role to his people. Adam and Eve - Gen 1: 26-27; Abraham - Gen 12: 1-3; Israel - Exodus 19: 4-6; The church - 1 Peter 2: 9-10. Reading through these few verse what picture begins to emerge?
- Remember that Jesus said you are the salt of the earth. It seems that the salt metaphor Jesus used was more concerned with diminishing impact of a disciple than any of the other possible meanings of salt. What are the factors that can cause us to become desalinated (unsalty)?
- We are not always aware when salt is present in food but we are certainly aware of it absence. Can you think of time when you have influenced a situation almost without being aware? Or have you experienced the distinctive nature of the kingdom of God through other? What was it that you noticed, felt, thought?
- The second metaphor is light- you are the light of the world. Light dispels darkness. As the king of the kingdom is the Light of World, so are his people lights. What does it mean to shine in the darkness?
- Paul discuss that the light metaphor was used in three different ways. The light on the hill, the small terracotta oil lamp in the home and light that shines through good works. What might these three slightly different picture say?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes. Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect - Respond

- These could represent:
 1. Light on the hill. Our lives in the public square. Making Good Work, Mouthpiece for truth and Justice. Reflecting back of our Fruitfulness on the Frontline study. How are you able to shine light on your Front Line?
 2. Light in a small terracotta oil lamp at home. Sometimes the most difficult Frontline is at home. Being light bearing Kingdom people amongst those we love is sometimes hard. Modeling Godly Character and Ministering Grace and love must start at home. How are you at being a light in your home?
 3. Light as good works. Light has legs on it. By our willingness to serve in Christ's name we can be Messengers of the Gospel and Molding Culture. Share with others how you have had opportunities to share the gospel or how you have seen the influence of light through works of service.
- Final Paul made the point that Jesus was not calling his disciples to be salty or shiny because he said they already were. You already are. Talk about ways that you think you can tap into your God given identity. Read 1 Peter 2: 11-12

Please prayer

Pray for one another that you will salt and shine

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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