

## Community Group Discussion Questions

“Kingdom Purpose”    Matthew 5:13-16    August 17, 2019

### Getting Started

Living according to the “Kingdom Principles” of the Beatitudes advances “Kingdom Purpose,” and today we look at two metaphors that show us how!

If you eat salt, what is your favorite food to put it on?

If you like light, where does it bring you the most usefulness and happiness?

### Going Deeper:

**You are a person of PROFOUND IMPACT:** “*You are the salt of the earth*” Vs 13

**Value of Salt:** “*but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?*” Vs. 13

**Currency:** Form of Payment.

**Covenant:** Binding Agreement.

**Conserving:** Preservation of Meat.

**Cleansing:** Medicinal value.

**Cooking:** Flavor enhancement.

The way salt loses its saltiness is when it is compromised and diluted with something that looks a lot like salt, but isn't salt. Salt merchants of Jesus' day would often do this in order to stretch out their profits by diluting their products. For Christians, we lose our saltiness when we compromise our purity and holiness by diluting our lives with unrighteous thoughts, actions, and words.

Where do you see yourself compromising your saltiness?

Is there someone you need to talk with so you can ask forgiveness for giving them a less than favorable impression of a Christian?

Is there someone we can pray for who you are trying to share your faith with?

**Virtue of Salt:** *"It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet."* Vs. 13

**Salt of the Earth:** reliable and trustworthy.

**Worth their Salt:** deserving of compensation.

**Above or Below the Salt:** determined seating assignment.

**Take with a Grain of Salt:** to receive information with skepticism.

**Don't Spill the Salt:** to be in disagreement.

Compromised, diluted salt was used on roadways to keep weeds from growing as it would damage the soil. A Christian who won't let the Holy Spirit live in them and control them does not honor God and is no help to the mission of the church. For you and I to be good for something, we have to retain our virtue, purity and holiness. **Read Matthew 7:21-23. What warning does Jesus put before us?**

**View of Salt:** *"You are"* Vs.13

**Salt NEVER stops being Salt.**

**Effectiveness DOES NOT happen without Engagement.**

**Inconspicuous, but NOT Insignificant.**

You are the salt of the earth. There is no other group of people except Christians who can point this lost world back to God. As those who have been saved and repurposed by Jesus, we simply have to be serious about being salty. As you know, just a little sprinkle of salt can make a huge difference in the way food tastes.

**Where do you see God using you the most to reflect His glory and advance the mission of the church?**

**You are a person of PROLIFIC INFLUENCE:** *"You are the light of the world."*

**Power of Light:** *"a city set on a hill cannot be hidden."* Vs. 14

**Light exposes Darkness**

**Light warns of Danger**

**Light provides Direction**

The early American Puritans saw their mission to be those who would make this new country of America into a city on a hill, a place where the world could come to see Christianity lived out in sincerity and purity. God, as Creator of this world, has every right to ask us to represent Him well, living our lives in such a way that the people around us cannot miss the fact that we belong to Jesus. Like a city upon a hill that can be seen for miles around, so our lives should be obvious to all. **If your family, neighbors, friends, and coworkers had to describe you, what words would they use?**

**Place of Light:** *"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."* (Vs. 15)

**Prevent Shading:** *"basket"*

**Place of Significance:** *"gives light"*

Read Matthew 25:14-30. To take the life God has given you and to waste it or hide it is a great offense to God. If we really know God as a good father, we will do all we can to honor Him with our lives by living them in such a way that we show His love and light to all around us. **What are some ways you think God wants you to do this?**

**Perspective of Light:** *“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.”* Vs. 16

**Make Light Visible:** *“your light”*

**Make Light Viable:** *“your good works”*

**Make Light Victorious:** *“your Father”*

Read Ephesians 2:10, and Titus 1:15-16, 2:7, 2:14, 3:8. What does God clearly tell us to do? What is the effect of us doing this?

**Take Away:** Salt speaks of an inward character that influences the people of the world; light speaks of the outward conviction that points to the one who made the world. By being SALT and LIGHT, the world will **taste** and **see** that God is good.

**Prayer:**