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Allen Harris

The Gospel of Matthew #35

Sermon on the Mount: Salt & Light:

Engaging Our Community: 1

INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS

Matthew 5:13-16

I. This comes as a _____ after the last beatitude!

The world that rejects you needs you

You can profoundly influence it

II. This requires you to be _____

Salt and light only work because they are radically different from what they affect

The metaphors imply that the world is rotting and dark

III. This requires you to have _____ with the world

Salt must come into intimate contact with the food it affects; light must be *in* the darkness

Evangelical Church today often reacts to a culture moving further away from absolute truth:

- Fight: power engagement, particularly in politics and courts
- Flight: circle the wagons and withdraw
- Lifeboat: "one heart at a time" but avoid temporal involvement as a distraction
- "Emerging Church": build any possible bridges, often downplaying the radical gospel message
- Salt & Light: love and serve the city and sinners, welcoming contact, but living radically distinctive lives

IV. This does not require you to be _____ - _____

Salt and light are very ordinary matters

V. What makes you salty and light?

Simply being transformed by Christ, Who IS the Light of the world (John 1:1-9; 8:12) into the kind of person described in the beatitudes:

- Grieving sin, first your own, then also public
- Gentle because you recognize your own spiritual poverty
- Hungering for righteousness and justice
- Merciful to the needy who do not deserve it
- Pure in heart, so actively opposing public impurity
- Peacemaking, on various levels
- Willing to suffer for what is right

This kind of person loves sinners, so engages the culture, not as an adversary, but as a friend, gentled by the Gospel and full of mercy

The Son came into your world to rescue you.

Are you willing right now to give yourself to Him to teach you how to be salt and light to be part of His Rescue Operation in our world here and now?

Individually

Corporately