



Week of February 9, 2020

Matthew 5:13-20

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. What is the worst purchase you've made in recent memory?
- B. Tell a story of a time when you missed an opportunity.

Bible Study Questions:

1. What do you think is the meaning of the salt metaphor?
2. In verse 16, we are told to let our good deeds be seen. In other passages, Jesus teaches us to do our good deeds in secret. What is the difference?
3. In verse 18, what do you think it means for everything in the law to be accomplished?
4. What do you think it means to be "least in the kingdom of heaven"?
5. In what way are you "salt"? In what way does your "light" shine?
6. Have you "lost your saltiness" at some point in your journey? Did it return? If so, what got it back for you?
7. What is one commitment you would make toward being a better follower of Jesus?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about improving as a follower of Jesus