

“The Influence of a Servant”

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Matthew 5:13-16

3.13.16

Introduction

- A. Truth is: All of us have _____.
- B. The Beatitudes are the essential character traits that _____ should develop so they can have an _____ on the _____.
- C. In our passage for today, Jesus says that servants can make a difference by being _____ and _____.
- D. In order to define the nature of our influence, Jesus resorted to two _____ metaphors.
- E. The truth that lies behind the metaphors and is common to both is that the _____ and the _____ are distinct communities.
- F. Additionally, the metaphors tell us something about both communities.
 - 1. The world is a _____ place.
 - 2. The world manifests a tendency to _____.
 - 3. The church is set in the world for a dual role - we are salt to arrest the process of _____, and we are light to dispel the _____.
- G. As Jesus laid these two statements in parallel with each other, He began with an _____, and then He added a _____.

I. Servants are the Salt of the Earth

- A. Whether we want to be or not, we _____ the salt of the earth.
- B. The only question about the matter is whether we will be sufficiently _____.
- C. Our saltiness is the Christian character as depicted in the _____.
- D. Our influence on our world requires that we remain distinct from it, not in _____, but in _____.

II. Servants are the Light of the World

- A. Whether we want to be or not, we _____ the light of the world.
- B. We, like the _____, have no light of our own, we simply _____ the light of the _____.
- C. The light in us can become _____, or it can be _____.
- D. Our influence as a servant depends on being _____, not _____.
- E. We are not to conceal the truth we _____, nor the truth of what we ____.
- F. When people see us and our _____ _____, then they will glorify God.

Conclusion:

- A. Serving as the salt of the earth and the light of the world requires two things:
 - 1. We must _____ the _____.
 - 2. We must _____ the _____.
- B. A word of caution: Too much salt _____, and too bright a light _____.
- C. What influence can I have, since I'm a _____?
 - 1. The people who make the most difference are the ones who _____.
- D. Allow me to end with Peter Marshall's story "The _____ of the _____."

Answer Key: Intro.A. influence. B. servants, impact, world. C. salt, light. D. domestic. E. church, world. F.1. dark. F.2. deteriorate. F.3. decay, darkness. G. affirmation, qualifier. I.A. are. I.B. salty. I.C. Beatitudes. I.D. proximity, purity. II.A. are. II.B. moon, reflect, Son. II.C. darkness, concealed. II.D. visible, concealed. II.E. know, are. II.F. good, works. Concl.A.1. live, life. A.2. speak, words. B. kills, blinds. C. nobody. C.1. care. D. Keeper, Spring.