Series: Serving Like Jesus

“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 _______.”