



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Speaker: Chris Royalty // Sunday: April 23, 2023

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Read Matthew 5:13-16 together.

Commentary - “Much is made of the properties of salt to preserve and purify. But Jesus did not pluck these metaphors from the air. In the Old Testament salt is used as a symbol of the unbreakable nature of God’s covenantal relationship with his people (Leviticus 2:13; Numbers 18:19; 2 Chronicles 13:5). Now Jesus calls his small band of disciples God’s new salt community because the old salt community has irreversibly lost its saltiness” (Tim Chester, Porterbrook: Missional Church and Church Planting, 8).

- 3) What is the saltiest thing you’ve ever tasted? What is something you’ve tasted that was really bland?
- 4) How can we (as Jesus’ disciples) help give flavoring to the world?
- 5) How can we (as Jesus’ disciples) act as preservatives in the world?
- 6) What’s the difference between doing “normal” work in a way that glorifies God and doing “normal” work in a way that doesn’t glorify God?

Commentary - “. . . the precise nature of the symbolism [of salt] is not certain. The two most significant uses of salt in the ancient world were for flavoring and for the preservation of food, and either or both of those uses would provide an appropriate sense here . . . A further nuance may be found in the use of salt in the OT in relation to the covenant . . .” (R.T. France, NICNT: Matthew, 174).

- 7) If Israel largely failed to be a salt community, won’t we fail as well?
- 8) How do you feel about being told that you and your fellow believers are the light to the world?

9) How well do you think you're personally doing at being part of this light?

Francis Schaeffer

"And if we are surrounded by a world which no longer believes in the concept of truth, certainly we cannot expect people to have any interest in whether a man's doctrine is correct or not. But Jesus did give the mark that will arrest the attention of the world, even the attention of the modern man . . . There is something . . . in every geographical climate, in every point of time, which cannot fail to arrest his [mankind's] attention. What is it? The love that true Christians show for each other, and not just their own party" (Francis Schaeffer, *The Mark of the Christian*).

- 10) What sticks out to you in this statement by Francis Schaeffer? What challenges you?
- 11) Have you ever tried to hide that fact that you're a christian from other people? If so, why do you think you did that?
- 12) End your time in prayer. Ask God to help you apply the things you've discussed and learned during this time of study.

** Some of these questions taken from*