

The Influence of God's Kingdom (2)

Matthew 5:14-16

● **WELCOME God's People (15 minutes)**

● **WORSHIP God (10 minutes** – song, reading of Psalms or prayers of thanks/praise). You can use prayers of thanksgiving or adoration as your time of worship

● **Live by God's WORD (45 minutes)**

At this particular time, Jesus had gone up on a mountain to teach. His disciples came and near Him (verse 1). Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth." Jesus was not speaking to everyone. He was only speaking to His disciples, who sat at His feet.

After explaining to them that they are the "salt of the earth," Jesus gave them another important title. In verse 14, Jesus told them they were the light of the world. What Jesus said was not designed to increase the pride level of His disciples. Rather, Jesus was teaching them that they those, who have put their trust in Him must become ambassadors. Jesus made a promise, over and over, that the kingdom of God was coming. The world must be informed and warned on a continual basis. Those disciples of Jesus would be responsible for spreading the good news of the kingdom of God throughout the world.

However, we, Christians, have the same calling in our life. We are to be salt and light to the world. By being light, we help others, who are living in the darkness of sin. When we say "darkness", it speaks of those who do not about Jesus. It, also, means those who know about Jesus but continue to live in unbelief.

The purpose of light is to dispel darkness. A light does not have to be large to dispel some darkness. We must never forget that light has no value if it does not shine. A light that does not shine does not serve its purpose. In addition, a light that shines, but is hidden, does not serve its purpose. No matter how expensive they may be, neither of these two lights have any value. In the same way, Christians, whose lifestyle do not reflect a true connection with the power of Jesus Christ, and obedience to Him, do not shine for Him. They do not serve as a motivation and guide for unbelievers to come to Jesus for forgiveness of sin and membership in His kingdom. This should remind us that we may be an influence in the lives of many people – some we do not know.

Suggested Questions for Discussion and Growth

1. As a Christian, how do you feel about being called "the light of the world?"
2. What or who motivated you to be a light for Jesus, in your early Christian life? How?
3. What do you feel you could do to better fulfill your call as the "light of the world?"
4. Share something you heard/learned, from the sermon, that has impacted your faith or life?

● **Impact God's WORLD (20 min)**

1. Your group should plan to give or go to a place of need and serve for an hour or two.
2. Looking for someone you can invite to your group?

ANNOUNCEMENTS – 3 minutes:

1. Share: ● any planned group activity ● important church announcements ● next meeting time
2. Keep a copy of the church bulletin to help remind the group of important events. **CLOSING** – Please turn in your attendance each week. It helps us evaluate our progress.