

Salt and Light

Introduction

Welcome to Reading the New Testament 90 Day Challenge! This week we're focusing on Matthew's Gospel as we begin our daily readings. The original audience for this gospel is persons who have some familiarity with the Hebrew scriptures. Throughout the gospel, we discover how Jesus is the long desired Messiah, fulfilling the prophecies of prophets.

Discussion Questions

1. What is your favorite seasoning? Do you prefer a lot of seasoning or just a little for flavoring?
2. Salt was an important preservative in Jesus' culture, and it was highly prized. How do you think the crowd reacted when he called them salt? What would it mean for them to see themselves as important? Life-giving? Highly prized?
3. How does seeing ourselves in this way encourage us? How may it propel us into caring for the people around us?
4. Jesus also called the people gathered the light of the world. How is light useful to us? What does light do for us?
5. If our daily living is to be so visible to others, how does that motivate our discipleship?
6. Who are some of the lights in your life--the people who have encouraged you to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? What about their witness makes you want to live and love like Jesus? As you are a light of the world, who is watching you? Who are you mentoring in this journey of following Jesus?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for naming me as salt and light. Help me to receive your affirmation and claim these names for myself. May my words, actions, and presence this week be a reflection of you to those around me. Enable me to grow in living and loving like you so that others would be drawn to you and your way. Amen.

Scripture Passage

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. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In 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. – Matthew 5:13-16