

SERMON OUTLINE

'PROMOTING THE GOSPEL'

Study - 8

'Living the Gospel'

Matthew 5 v13 - 16

Another definition of evangelism - Living out on a day-to-day basis all that you are by the grace of God in Christ. In other words - 'Be what you are!' Key Question (therefore) - What are you by the grace of God in the gospel? Answer:-

"You are the salt of the earth....."

You are the light of the world....."

Note - This is what we already are, and not what we are to become.

4 key questions:-

1. WHAT IS BEING PRESUPPOSED IN THIS IMAGERY?

Context - The world hates you! See - v10 - 12 & John 15 v18 - 20a.

Key Point - The world that hates you is the world that needs you.

A. THE FUNCTION OF SALT

Not just in flavouring and cleansing, but primarily - in preserving. In other words - the world is rotten. It's decaying - putrefying!

B. THE FUNCTION OF LIGHT

To dispel the darkness!

Implication - The world is both a rotten place and a dark place. It's great need is, therefore - for salt to hinder the decay and light to dispel the darkness.

2. WHAT IS BEING UNDERLINED IN THIS IMAGERY?

Note - The pronoun "you" is emphatic. Jesus was saying in other words - 'You, and you alone, are the only hope for a rotten and dark

world.' What an extraordinary thing to say! Remember - who was Jesus speaking to here? Answer - the disciples. How could they possibly impact and influence the world? Yet it was to them that Jesus said - "You are the salt of the earth..... You are the light of the world....."

3. WHAT IS BEING ENVISAGED IN THIS IMAGERY?

Context - Jesus has just given us the Beatitudes - the characteristics which are to be seen in every Christian believer. And remember here - the Beatitudes are a description of Christ. In other words, we are salt and light as we live out the life of Christ within us.

A. THE FUNCTION OF SALT

The very presence of a Christian who is living out the life of Christ can arrest bad behaviour and bad language.

B. THE FUNCTION OF LIGHT

Note - With respect to our functioning as light, it's what people will see rather than what people will hear that will make the impact. See - v16 & 1 Pet 2 v12. See also - 1 Pet 3 v1 - 2a. This is - 'conversion without a word'.

4. WHAT IS BEING CAUTIONED IN THIS IMAGERY?

A. WE ARE NOT TO LOSE OUR SALTINESS

See - v13.

B. WE ARE NOT TO HIDE OUR LIGHT

See - v14 - 16. If we do, God might just remove the light - as He's done before.