

THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM OF GOD

Matthew 5:13-16
Week Two

Big Idea:
Kingdom people are salt and light in our world.

Kingdom people are the salt of the earth.

Kingdom people are the light of the world.

Small Group Questions:

- What stood out to you from the lecture?
- What were your key takeaways/questions from the assignment?
- We usually don't notice the distinctive flavor of salt in our food, but we do notice its absence. In the same way, our presence as salt in our community may not be dramatically obvious, but we are to bring the savory influence of Christlike character into a difficult world.
 - What examples have you seen of Christian compassion being used to resolve a potentially damaging situation?
 - What examples have you seen of Christian wisdom being brought to bear to resolve disagreements?
- As we think of salt as a purifying agent and as something that counteracts decay, how might we serve as salt in some of these situations?
 - In our business dealings
 - In our private conversations and social media posts
 - In our public discourse
 - In our behavior in public
- Whereas **salt** is a “behind-the-scenes” element of our Christian conduct, **light** should be visible and obvious. How do we bring light into a dark world?
- According to Matthew 5:16, our **good works** serve as a light that will draw the attention of the world to the God we love. What other aspects of our lives may serve to bring the light of Christ into a dark world?

Preparing for next week:

Read Matthew 5:17-32 several times this week.

As you read, consider these questions:

- Anything confusing or surprising to you about this passage?
- Jesus is teaching about the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven--and it's an upside-down Kingdom. In what ways is this week's reading at odds with what his listeners might have expected? How is it counter-cultural?