

Living Connections Bible Study



Directions for Living – My Influence

Prayer:

Text: Matthew 5:13-16 *You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.*

1. What 8 character qualities does God want to work in us so we will have the affect of salt and light to those around us? Review the beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12

2. How is salt a fitting illustration of the Christian's influence?
Think of the uses for salt and how God desires to use us to influence others.
Matthew 5:13

3. How does salt lose its flavor or saltiness, and how does a Christian's influence become diluted and ineffective? Matthew 5:13

4. What did Jesus mean when He said that contaminated salt is good for nothing except to be thrown out and to be walked on by men? Matthew 5:13

The Greek word for *earth* means the standing place. It refers to the soil/ground, but also to the people standing or sitting on it. It means the material, tangible, touchable world around us.

5. What is Jesus saying about our responsibility when He said we are to be salt to the earth (where we are planted)? Matthew 5:13

6. What did Jesus claim in John 8:12?

7. What did Jesus say about believers who have been transformed and are intimately connected to Him? Matthew 5:14

The word *world* here is the word *cosmos* meaning the order of all created things. We are to shed light on the created universe.

8. How can we fulfill the meaning of Jesus's words in being the *light of the cosmos*? Matthew 5:14; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11 (KJV)

9. What point was Jesus making when He said, *A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden*? Matthew 5:14

10. Give some examples of the positive influence of the Church around the world?

11. What lesson is Jesus teaching us about letting our lights shine in Matthew 5:15?

12. What two possibilities could happen if you put a basket on an oil lamp?

13. What happened to Jeremiah when he tried to hide his light and witness for God?
Jeremiah 20:9

14. Besides sharing your testimony with someone, what is one of the most effective ways of letting our lights shine for Jesus?
Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 2:12

Think about it this week:

Let's never forget that it is not what we have, or know, or do, or say that matters most in God's Kingdom, but it is what we are. When Christ really gets a hold of my life so that I am no longer proud and haughty, but humble and submissive to do His will I will then hunger and thirst after God's will for my life; this will result in a heart full of compassion towards others and purity of heart towards God. Only then can it truly be said of me, *You are salt and light*. Only then can I fulfill Jesus' challenge: *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven*. Matthew 5:16

- ⇒ How can I be a saltier Christian in the environments where Christ has placed me?
- ⇒ How can I let my light shine more brightly for Christ this week?