



Sunday, January 9, 2011: Salt and Light

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16; Isaiah 42:1-9

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. In Matthew 5, Jesus expounds His law as given to Moses.
2. In the Beatitudes, He describes who the blessed person is and how they should live.
3. If we are this kind of Christian person we will have an inescapable effect on the world around us.
4. Our faith in God is not about trivial matters. In Isaiah 42:6, God says: 'I have called you for a righteousness purpose, to be a covenant people, a light to the nations.'
5. As a church, we are in danger of straightening pictures on the wall while the house is burning down.
6. When salt is contaminated it is without taste and useless; it loses its distinctiveness immediately.
7. The world in which we're placed tends to putrefaction.
8. As seen in the evils of the 20th century, left to itself the world goes bad.
9. Even a small amount of salt can affect its surroundings profoundly.
10. If Christians don't live out the Beatitudes, the world becomes putrid, infected. Christians are called to be antiseptic.
11. A Barna group study in 2010 found that Christians are becoming theologically illiterate, withdrawing from involvement in the world, and embracing tolerance of falsehood and immorality.
12. Whether we live and implement our faith in every aspect of our lives will affect the health of our culture.
13. Because the church is compromised and polluted we've lost our seasoning impact on the world.
14. The church is called to restore to succulence the whole created order which has degenerated into rotteness.
15. God has made foolish the wisdom of the world (1 Cor. 1:20).
16. The controlling thought of this age is to solve humanity's woes with a little more knowledge, education, and scientific research.
17. Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.
18. Everywhere we are we should be exposing darkness.
19. In Greek thought, light was knowledge or philosophy. In Scripture, light is the healing and illuminating presence of God.
20. God passes the mission of bringing light to the Gentiles on to the church (Acts 13:46-47). The land-grant is now the whole earth, not Canaan.
21. We are to be an ethical light, Jesus says in Matt 5:13-16. Then Jesus affirms that all of His law is the standard of our ethics.
22. The law given to Israel was to be the envy of the nations (Deuteronomy 4:6-8).
23. Israel's law would welcome inspection and its humanness and justice would witness to the truthfulness and goodness of God.
24. "Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising" (Is. 60:1-3).
25. Our ethical lives are to be a response to the presence of God amongst us.
26. We're to create covenant communities of obedience that his creation might be renewed in terms of the gospel.
27. Every Christian is to put his/her light on a lamp stand. We're to glorify our Father in heaven and to obey His word.

Application Questions:

1. What are some factors which have made the modern evangelical church so ineffective at preserving our culture?
2. How is the savouring influence of God's people described in Isaiah 49:6?
3. In what ways have I been putting my light on a lamp stand?
4. Am I a savouring influence among my peers or colleagues?
5. What is the standard of the Christian's ethical living in the world?
6. What is the goal of letting our light shine before the world?