

THE MISSIONAL MARRIAGE STUDY – SEASON 2

“Incarnational Marriage: Implications from Christ’s Ministry on Earth”

Session 2.4 - Christ as Salt & Light

CONCEPTUAL IDEAS TO CONVEY:

- ❖ Jesus’ ministry on earth involved both serving others AND calling them to repentance. Being both Salt & Light to the world around Him.
- ❖ Christ has called our ministry to reflect His by being both “the salt of the earth” AND “light of the world”
- ❖ Serving is messy, organic, and just about always sacrificial. It will cost us more than we’re willing to pay and take us further than we’re willing to go... but it is Christ’s pattern for effective ministry.
- ❖ Proclaiming the truth of the Gospel is essential to the mission of the Gospel. Serving people is mandatory, but it requires an eternal agenda that culminates in clearly communicating the Gospel message of sin, grace, repentance, and salvation in Jesus.
- ❖ Without Light, we’re nothing more than humanitarians for a moral cause
- ❖ Without Salt, we’re nothing more than fundamentalists who only have a tool belt of words.
- ❖ Jesus has asked us to follow in His model of bringing the Gospel to the world around us through BOTH words & deeds.

JESUS’ MINISTRY OF SERVICE:

- **Mark 10:45...** “For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”
- **John 13:1-12...** (Jesus washing His disciples feet)
- **Luke 22:27...** “For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.”

JESUS’ MINISTRY OF PROCLAMATION:

- **Matthew 4:17...** “From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.’”
- **Luke 4:43...** “But he said, ‘I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.’”
- **John 4:5-26...** (Jesus confronting the sin issue with the woman at the well)
- **Matthew 9:35...** “Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.”

QUESTIONS FOR DIALOGUE:

1. Why do you think serving & preaching were Jesus’ primary forms of ministry?
2. What are the prerequisites we need to have in place in order to effectively serve our community and proclaim the truths of the Gospel to them?
3. What does the Gospel through serving look like in our neighborhoods, apartment complexes, families, workplaces, churches, etc...? Is there such thing as being an over-servant? How so?
4. What does the Gospel through preaching look like in those same contexts? Is there such thing as being too preachy? How so?

[READ MATTHEW 5:13-16]

5. Why do you think Jesus uses the metaphors of salt and light to describe our ministry while on the earth?

***A LESSON ON SALT & LIGHT “CP” + “CC” + “HP” = MI**

CLOSE PROXIMITY = Salt (Matthew 5:13a)

Purpose of Salt...

1. Adds Flavor
2. Creates Thirst
3. Prevents Decay

CLEAR COMMUNICATION = Light (Matthew 5:14a)

Purpose of Light...

1. Illumines that which was previously hidden (makes things visible)

HIGH POTENCY = Effectiveness (Matthew 5:13b, 14b-15)

MAXIMUM IMPACT = Eternal Results (Matthew 5:16)

<p>SALT – LIGHT = HUMANITARIANISM LIGHT – SALT = FUNDAMENTALISM SALT + LIGHT = EFFECTIVE CHRISTIANITY</p>
--

6. What are the biggest barriers for us in being salt and light in those places?
7. What are the consequences of emphasizing on one without the other? (see dialogue box above)
8. What steps can we take to do a better job at serving people and proclaiming the truth of the Gospel to them?

EXHORTATIONS ON SERVING OTHERS:

- **Matthew 5:13...** *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men."*
- **Matthew 25:34-40...** (Jesus says, "when you serve them, you serve Me)
- **Mark 10:42-44...** *"Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. "But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all."*
- **John 13:12-17...** *"So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."*
- **John 12:26...** *"If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him."*
- **Matthew 23:10-12...** *"Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ. "But the greatest among you shall be your servant. "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."*
- **Hebrews 6:10...** *"For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints."*
- **1 Peter 4:10-11...** *"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."*
- **Ephesians 4:11-12...** *"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;"*
- **Colossians 3:17...** *"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*

EXHORTATIONS ON PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH TO OTHERS:

- **Matthew 5:14-16...** *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*
- **Romans 10:13-17...** *"for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!" However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."*
- **Mark 16:15-16...** *"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."*
- **Matthew 10:7...** *"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"*
- **Matthew 24:14...** *"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."*
- **Luke 9:60...** *"But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God."*

HOMEWORK:

- ❖ Assess the "saltiness" of your marital ministry right now... how ya doin? What needs to improve? How will you improve?
- ❖ Assess the "illumination" in your marital ministry right now... how ya doin? What needs to improve? How will you improve?
- ❖ Pray... ask God for help... then go obey!