

Discussion and Reflection Questions
Sunday 5th of February 2023- Epiphany 5A

Read: Matthew 5:13-30

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ ‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ ‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. When someone says “salt” what sort of things come to mind?
2. When someone says “light” what sort of things come to mind?
3. How do you feel about the idea that Jesus isn’t talking about a little bit of light or little bit of salt but a saturation of both?
4. The use of the word “you” in this passage is always in the plural. What does it mean that salt, light & righteousness is a corporate activity?
5. What do you understand by the word righteousness? How did you come to that understanding & how do you think the world outside the church thinks of righteousness?
6. What is the “heart” or passion behind what you do?
7. How do we as a church (with your involvement) show more salt, light & righteousness

Prayer (Collect for the week)

Father of all, who gave your only-begotten Son to take upon himself the form of a servant and to be obedient even to death on a cross: give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, that, sharing in his humility, we may come to be with him in his glory; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.