



Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

May 14

PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

MATTHEW 5:13

"You are the salt of the Earth"

The disarmingly familiar 'I've heard it all before, nothing new here' story of the death and resurrection of Christ is a battle for the believer to fight within. To renew, to refresh, to reinvigorate our faith like a truth heard the first time.

Reading

Matthew 5:13

You are the salt of the earth but if salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

Some Christians believe their influence on society is bolstered by public protest. Using placards, chants, marches even silent sit-ins.

- What impact do you think this has on the general community?
- Is there an issue on which you would make a public protest?

Other Christians believe that a powerful presence in politics is the best place to exert a Christian influence. Do you think a Christian who wants to enter politics should:

1. Join a major party
2. Join a Christian Party
3. Be an Independent
4. Stay away from politics

Discuss or reflect on the pros and cons for each of these options

- There is an old saying "The two things that should never be discussed are religion and politics".

What do you think of this statement?

- Many Christians are passionate about a witness driven by social compassion.

James 1:27

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

How do we balance these good works with - Romans 1:16, Romans 10:14-15?

- Without trying to be hijacked into a discussion about gender roles and cultural differences of family structure in the 1stC AD compared to nowadays, what is the underlying principle of influence i.e. 'saltiness' in our witness in the family home?

1 Peter 3:1

In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over.