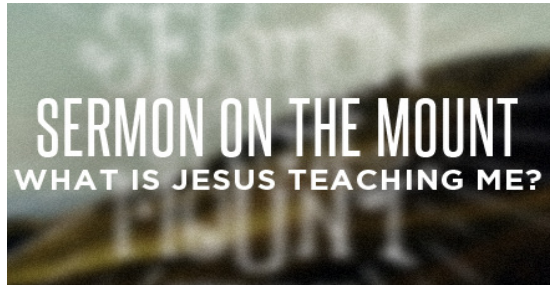


Lessons for Life



Week 2

These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website (www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.



Full of Flavour

Read Matthew 5:13-16

This is the second in our series of studies based on the Sermon on the Mount, (Matthew 5,6) entitled Lessons for Life. These chapters contain various sayings of Jesus that together form a coherent body of teaching, that are, considered to be, the blue-print for the Christian lifestyle. If we are to be true and authentic followers of Jesus we need to model our lives on what Jesus says here and allow it to shape, inform and define our identity. Jesus tells us in this passage that, as Christians, we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. In other words, we are to look like light and taste like salt.

Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. Do you think you are a 'tasty' Christian or have you lost your flavour? Can salt be made salty again? How do we become flavoursome Christians?
2. Read Galatians 6:7,8. In what ways do we 'sow to please our sinful nature' and how can we 'sow to please the Spirit'? Reflect on James 3:18 and Galatians 5:16-26.
3. Read 1 Timothy 4:12, Titus 2:7 & Philippians 3:17. Do you set a good example to others in speech, life, love, faith and purity? Is there room for improvement in any area?
4. Read Colossians 4:4,5. Think about your conversations. Are they 'seasoned with salt'? What do you think is meant by this phrase? Reflect further by reading James 3:1-12.
5. Chromatius was Bishop of Aquileia in Italy in the 5th century. He wrote, '*The Lord called his disciples the salt of the earth because they seasoned with heavenly wisdom the hearts of men that were rendered insipid by the devil.*' How can the lives of those outside of Christ be described as 'insipid'?
6. Do you have an appreciation of the supernatural? How does this influence and impact your life on a daily basis? Can we be naturally supernatural?
7. As a lighthouse warns ships about potential hazards, how can we best warn people of the dangers of life without Christ without sounding negative and judgmental?
8. Do the people you work with, socialise with, share interests with know you are a Christian? Have you ever kept it hidden like hiding a light under a bowl (v. 14)?
9. How do you feel about verse 16? Should we make sure everyone knows about our good deeds? How does this square with Matthew 6:2,3?
10. In what ways does Jesus want to flavour and light up the world around you? How does he want you to bring out *the God-flavours* and *the God-colours* of this world (see The Message).
11. 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path' 0Psalm 119:105. How much do you allow the word of God to guide your path through life?
12. How will your discipleship develop as a result of this study?
Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of your tone; as you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost, alone.