

THE F1RST SERMON



1. It's best not to talk about religion or politics at the workplace.

YES&NO

2. Had Jesus given the Sermon on the Mount today, he would have called us to be "Mrs. Dash" instead of "salt."

3. Jesus would prefer to not work with "spiritual idiots."

4. Jesus' earthly ministry was overwhelmingly focused on preparing my ministry.

5. "Good works" are very important to God.

02

READ: Matthew 5:13 (NIV)

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the 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.

DIG DEEP

NOTES

∞ What have you been told that Jesus is trying to say here?

» The word μωρανθή (moranthé) means "foolish" in all uses but one other place in Scripture [Luke 14:34 which is the same phrase]. How does this understanding of Jesus' humorous statement change how you view this verse?

‡ What do you think Jesus was trying to reveal about God's character?

READ: Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

14 "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

∞ In John 8, Jesus says that "he" is the light of the world. Is he contradicting himself, did he change his mind, or is he expressing something inclusive?

» If this is a continuation of the Festival of Lights, what might Jesus be saying?

DIG DEEP...CONTINUED

NOTES

» οὐδὲ καίουσιν λύχνον καὶ τιθέασιν αὐτὸν ὑπὸ τὸν μόδιον (No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket) was a common saying in Jesus' day. When Jesus says, "where it gives light to everyone in the house," who do you think the "everyone" is?

‡ How is Jesus' statement, "*let your good deeds shine out*" not a legalistic command?

∞ What does it tell you about God's character that he entrusts you with so much active responsibility on behalf of His kingdom?

TALK WITH GOD THIS WEEK ABOUT...

1. How "salty" would God consider me to be?
2. How can I shine even brighter where God has placed me?
3. What do I see more clearly about the character of God this week?



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