

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

January 12 & 13 '08

“Reboot” The Sermon on the Mount Series

This Week's Message: “Salt & Light”

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MATTHEW 5: 1-16

In the eyes of the world, Jesus was a fool. He did not abide by the rules of the day; the people he associated with were shunned by society; his Sermon on the Mount reads like a primer on being left behind, stepped on and ignored.

Being a ‘Christian’ is not some magical process by which we are automatically transformed into better people. We must train to become who God wants us to be. We are sinful, faulted beings. Our system files are corrupted and we need to reset our systems to the defaults that Christ has demonstrated for us.

It begins with the reshaping of our minds – how we think – what we believe – what we know to be true, and then beginning to live out that truth in practical ways in our daily lives.

“Don’t just talk about it. The rose doesn’t have to propagate its perfume. It just gives forth and people are drawn to it. Don’t talk about it. Live it. And people will come to see the source of your power.” – Mahatma Gandhi (talking to Christian missionaries about their faith)

Small Group Notes: Read Matthew 5: 1-16 again together

John Stott once said, *“Christians have been blaming the meat (of society) for going rotten when the preserving salt has been taken out of it, and the house for getting darker when the light has been removed. It is time for Christians to recognize their responsibility to be salt and light in our society”*.

DISCUSS as a group:

1. What does this mean for each of you? What does it mean being Salt & Light in our work environments, families, friendships?
2. When is it hardest to be the ‘preserving’ element of truth in those circumstances?
3. Like a computer, we often need to ‘reboot’ and set our defaults to the master plan set out by Jesus. Is this a reality for each of you? How often does that happen – and how does God go about convicting you about it?
4. The rubber hits the road when life gets messy. If we are truly to be ‘change agents’ in society we must have the spiritual disciplines to see the world through Christ’s eyes and the commitment to his principles to act accordingly. How well do you do that? Be honest with each other and allow yourself to be held accountable in discussion.

“If you dig beneath the surface, the core reason why so few Christians possess a biblical filter on reality becomes apparent. The vast majority of Christians do not behave differently because they do not think differently, and they do not think differently because they have not been trained, equipped or held accountable to do so.” – George Barna

5. Respond/reflect on this statement with one another.
6. Where does this training/equipping and accountability take place? Does your small group fulfill even part of this process?
7. If so – how well are you doing at it?

ACTION POINTS:

8. Discuss and implement ways to spur one another on (Heb 10:25) as well as holding one another accountable – to be the Salt & Light that we are called to be in our society.
9. PRAY for one another; either in pairs or as a group, but be sure to pray for each member of your group in turn.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO BE FAMOUS!

Okay, not really, super famous. The winner will have their video played in our weekend services though - how’s that for being pretty cool. Upload your video on the theme of our next sermon series starting in January. The theme is “Reboot.” (Sermon on the mount Matthew 5 - 7). And the video must be 3 minutes or less. Deadline for the video submissions is January 18th. The winner will be chosen from the top 5 vote getters within You Tube.

<http://www.youtube.com/group/wpcsouth>