

DIVERGENT: *living the Sermon on the Mount*



Purpose: to live out the kingdom values of God found in the sermon like God's presence (light and love), redemptive deliverance, and restorative justice (mercy, peace and righteousness).

→ **SALT & LIGHT – more than clever metaphors for our life?**

- More than just inspiration for good morals:
 - READ Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 12:1-7; Exodus 19:4-6; Ps. 8; 1 Peter 2:9
 - What specific role is being assigned by God to his people?
 - Specific role of being priests on behalf of God in the world.
- What is our role as priests?
 - What did the priest(s) do in the Old Testament? (Ex. 28-30)
 - Today, our mediating and ruling roles are only done in Christ (1 Peter 2:9)...and salt and light are dimensions of that role.
 - Salt and light are not first of all about moral influence, but primarily about being God's witnesses to a watching world (i.e. Matt. 5:13-16; Col. 4:2-6; Phil. 2:12-18)

→ **How do we participate in God's Mission as salt and light?**

- The light metaphor for God and the people of God was familiar to the Jews listening to Jesus. So, Jesus is taking language of old and attaching it to a shocking, expansive mission. READ Matthew 4:15-16 (see Isaiah 9:1-2).
 - This is one of many Hebrew images of God's light impacting the darkness of the nations (Gentile world).
 - Jesus is announcing the coming of the reign of God upon the world, and he uses the metaphor of light to portray it.
- Then, Jesus declares us as light in Matthew 5:14-16.
 - As disciples, this is who we are. We are to shine as lights in the world joining God in his mission to make all things new.
 - So, how can you join God in being light in the world...an impactful lamp of God's light and love to others?
 - See 2 Corinthians 4:1-12 as a good starting place.
 - Ask God to use you as a vessel of light for his glory, for the sake of others, and your joy.