

Gathering Question: What has been in the news recently that causes you to believe that society is rotting? What are some ways that a Christian can respond to that? Tell about someone who has been like an open Bible to you.

Making a Difference—God’s Way!

It is hard to believe but there are some people in the world who never open a Bible. Even though they might not read the Word of God, they are still forming impressions about God and his word every time they are around Christians. Someone has written that we are the only Bible that some people will ever have an opportunity to see. This is a huge responsibility and one that can sometime seem so overwhelming. When we realize how dark this present world truly is, we wonder if we can really make any difference at all. But, as we all well know, the tiniest speck of light makes a difference in the darkest place. It is impossible not to notice. It really makes a difference.

In such a hard and tough world, what possible influence can the people described in the Beatitudes possibly make? What impact can the poor and meek make, the mourners and the merciful—those who seek peace and not war? Are they just overwhelmed by the flood of evil as it has its way in this fallen world? What can these Kingdom people really accomplish—whose only passion is righteousness and whose only weapon is purity of heart?

Jesus is not skeptical about the impact of Kingdom people in the world. He proposes to his followers that they will have a profound impact on the world. He calls them salt and light. He encourages them to maintain and use their “saltiness” to the greatest advantage and he instructs them not to hide their lamps under bushel baskets but to put their lights on lamp stands so that the whole world can see their lights. These Kingdom people have the power within them to bring glory to God and he wants them to take full advantage.

Read:
Matthew 5:13-16

Reflect:

1. Why does Jesus compare his follower’s lives to salt? What qualities or power does salt have to make a difference?
2. What about light? What does it mean when Jesus tells them to “let their lights shine?”
3. What are some practical ways in which salt can function in your life where you work? At home? In your neighborhood?
4. Why would we ever be tempted to hide our lights? What relationship do you see between the beatitudes and being salt and light?