

Looking over your Sound Bites and notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Getting Started

1. Have you ever followed a TV show, podcast, influencer, or maybe a youtube channel? Who or what was it?

2. After following that person or that show for a time, did you start to tell some of their stories/jokes, start talking about the things they talked about or maybe tried to do what they did on the show? (Think The Office, Youtube Shows like Meat Eater, Podcasters like JRE)

3. Would you say you spend more time following others (through podcasts, youtube channels, and social media) or more time following Jesus?
 - If it's others, why do you think that is?

A disciple is a follower or student of a teacher. A disciple can also be described as a believer, admirer, or devotee. It's easy to get distracted by this world and fill our time following people who aren't Jesus, it can even seem harmless and fun at times. We need to be cautious with where we spend our time and who we give our attention to.

4. Are there some things that you give your attention to that maybe should be going someplace else? What are some of those things?

Digging Deeper

Read Matthew 5:11-16

1. Jesus says to “be glad” when people insult you, talk bad about you, and persecute you. How can you be glad in these situations?
2. What are some things that salt is used for?
3. What does it mean that disciples of Jesus (you and I) are to be salt in the world?
4. What happens if we lose our saltiness? How can that happen?

Taking it Home

As you reflect on Matthew 5:14-16 give some space between verse 14 and the rest of the passage, there is a distinction here that can often be missed. Jesus is speaking to his disciples and anyone who chooses to follow Him during His “Sermon on the Mount”. He calls His disciples the “light of the world” and compares them to a city on a Hill that cannot be hidden. It’s easy in our modern western individualism to miss the importance of the group as a whole and think about this in terms of just small individual lights. When we add all of these lights up together we are a community that cannot be ignored by the rest of the world!

- What can you do to let your light shine to others?
- How can you start each day so that you are being a light to others and not hiding it “under a bowl”?
- What can you do to help others shine their light?

- How can you work with others to be a community the world can't ignore, "a city on a hill"?

Prayer Requests

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Encourage "popcorn" prayer and have everyone be involved (do not force anyone to pray).