

# WEEK 4 | MATTHEW 5:13-16

## A BEAUTIFUL KINGDOM

As believers in Jesus Christ, and citizens of his kingdom, we have the unique responsibility to reflect the glory of God to a watching world. In our new series, *A Beautiful Kingdom*, we will study Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount, considering what it means to flourish under his rule and reign, and live as his representatives where we work, live and play.

### OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES.

The following passages may be helpful as you consider this text.

- **Ephesians 5:8-11** Walking in the Light
- **Philippians 2:14-17** Walking in the Light
- **John 8:12** Jesus is the light of the World

### QUESTIONS.

Feel free to use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of this week's scriptures.

In his commentary *All Authority in Heaven and on Earth*, Douglas O'Donnell quotes Martyn Lloyd Jones and states: *"Martyn Lloyd Jones once stated 'The glory of the gospel is that when the Church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it. It is then that the world is made to listen to her message, though it may hate it at first.' That is a wonderful summary of what we learn from Jesus here in 5:11-16. If we embody the Beatitudes and model the Sermon on the Mount, the world takes notice and takes action. The world will either hate us for being holy, or, by means of our godliness, it will taste and see that God is good and thus worthy of praise."*

1. O'Donnell also mentions in his commentary that although salt is believed to have many different meanings amongst scholars, it is reasonable to believe that salt refers to something that enhances flavor since Jesus speaks of it losing its "taste." It is therefore something that "enhances" and "brightens" the world. How can following Jesus and imitating the beatitudes cause us to be the salt of the earth?
2. If we claim to follow Jesus but do not imitate his life or emulate his commands, how can we shine light in the world? Is the type of person Jesus is referring to when he mentions "salt losing its taste?"
3. Why does Jesus refer to his followers as being the "light of the world" when scripture usually points to Jesus being the light of the world as in John 8:12?
4. How does shining light to the world through the imitation of Jesus bring light to the world?
5. Have you ever met someone who imitates Jesus so well their life brings light to the world?

### PRAY TO CLOSE.