

# Fully Alive - experiencing the Good Life according to Jesus

study #34

## Reflecting on Sunday's Teaching ::

As we think back to Sunday's teaching, what stands out for you?

- *Was there something that hit home, challenged, or encouraged you?*
- *What questions are you left with and what are you doing with them?*

## Read the Text :: Matthew 5:13-16

*If possible, read the text aloud from a few different translations – and take note of the differences and how they help you hear Jesus afresh.*

## Digging In ::

- As you look around the world these days, where do you see evidence of **decay** (think personally and systemically)? Where do you see the power of **darkness** (think personally and systemically)?
  - In the light of all this, how relevant does Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:13-16 feel to you?
- Jamie Arpin-Ricci, in his book on the Sermon on the Mount, states, "*Christians often have the reputation of being judgmental, able to point out to the world all that is wrong in it. However, when Jesus calls us to be salt and light, his emphasis shifts back to us. It is when we live as the community of the Beatitudes—humble, repentant, meek, hungry for justice, merciful, pure of heart, makers of peace, and sufferers with Christ—that we are salt and light. What does this shift of emphasis mean with respect to how we relate to the world and its problems?*"
- Where have you seen or do you see Christians being salt and light in the world today? You're your life time, or maybe in the last week or two?
- What facet of the decay and darkness of the world (globally, locally, in your family, neighborhood, etc) do you feel God's invitation to engage as the salt and light of Christ?
  - What are the unique challenges in this for you? What are the joys?
  - How could we support and pray for you in this?
- Often out of a heart to not seek praise, Christians "let their light shine" through **anonymous** action – which benefits the receiver, but hides the Source (Christ at work in us).
  - Where might this be the best way to glorify God?
  - And where might this actually rob God of glory?

Read the text one more time and then **PRAY** together ::  
*for God's salt and light to preserve and illumine us –  
and through us to preserve and illumine the world.*