

Sunday, February 5, 2023 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study
Matthew 5:13-20
“You Are: Glimpses of the Kin-dom”**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes)

In groups of two or three, have participants respond to the question, “Who has been a mentor to you?” (“Who acted as light and salt for you?”)

Matthew 5:13-20, Context. This week’s reading continues Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount that began with the Beatitudes. If the latter describes the character of those yearning for the coming of the Kingdom of God, this week’s reading begins to describe the guiding principles that will govern how they will be and act.

Read Matthew 5:13-20

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the text?

Read Matthew 5:12-20 again -

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Some reflection questions –

- How is the church like salt? [An agent of flavoring and preservation.]
- How is the church a light to the world? [Shines on the path of life, reveals dangers, and so on.]
- How is the church being like a city on a hill an opportunity and a risk?
- What do you think it means that Jesus came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it? How does that influence how Christians read the Old Testament?
- If the common Jewish person of Jesus’ day would have thought that the Pharisees were the models of righteousness, what might have been the response of Jesus’ hearers that their righteousness exceeded that?
- Skim through the rest of the Sermon of the Mount (through chapter 7). How does verse 20 present a challenge that the rest of the sermon gives possible solutions to?
- What might this mean for your life as a disciple?

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, end by praying the following or a similar prayer:

God of glory, empower us to be salt and light to those we encounter. Stir up within us a desire for righteousness, holiness, and obedience to your instructions. Through your guidance and power, may we experience a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.