

SERMON NOTES Sunday 26 November

sunnysidechurch

Being Salt and Light: making a choice

Bible passages: Matthew 7.13-8.1; John 10.1-10

Introduction

- 'And your large speeches may your deeds approve, / that good effects may spring from words of love' (King Lear)
- Wise builder not only hears Jesus' words but puts them into practice
- Need to make a repeated choice to do as Jesus teaches

Choices

- In our relationships: E.g. Bible teaches sex within marriage and marriage between a man and a woman. Welcome and love to all people, regardless of whether they are living according to God's teaching yet as we all fall short
- In our motives: Jesus not impressed with those who do religious things if not seeking to draw closer to God
- In our priorities: do our choices about how we spend our time and money demonstrate that we are seeking first God's kingdom?
- In our attitudes: acting with humility not judgement

Conclusion

- On the Day of Judgement it is our relationship with Jesus that will matter and whether we have sought to obey him
- If we are salt and light in God's world we will be blessed and more people will glorify our Father in heaven

Some questions for discussion

1. What storms are you facing at present? They may be personal ones or due to the state of the world.
2. Read Matthew 7.13-8.1. What do you notice?
3. What are some of the things that make it hard to choose to put Jesus' words into practice?
4. Practice is a noun and practise a verb. How might the Holy Spirit help us both practice and practise following Jesus?
5. Read John 10.1-10. In what ways does this passage help us understand our reading from Matthew better?
6. The crowds were amazed at Jesus' teaching because of the authority with which he spoke (Matthew 7.28-29). Read the whole of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Which part of his teaching has struck you most?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

'everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man' (Matthew 7.24)

Why not spend some time thanking God for his Word and asking the Holy Spirit to help you put his words into practice more fully?

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