

The Disciple's Influence

(Matthew 5:13-16)

- Introduction:
1. The disciple of Jesus has an impact on those around him, whether he likes it or not.
 2. The statement made about being salt and light, is not a command that we must obey, but it is a fact to which we must resign ourselves.
 3. For some, their introduction to God is through one of his children.
 4. (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

I. Influence That Hurts

- A. Although salt and light are presented as a good thing in these verses, too much salt and too much light can repulse.
- B. Likewise, there are some Christians, who because of their influence drive people away from Christ, rather than bringing them to him.
- C. Types of Christians that repulse.
 1. In your face Christians.
 - a. (Colossians 4:6).
 - b. (Jude 22-23).
 2. Holier-than-thou Christians.
 - a. (Luke 18:10-14).
 3. Cosmetic Christians.
 - a. (Romans 6:17).

II. Influence That Helps

- A. Costly Christians.
 1. (Romans 12:1).
 2. Christianity demands a sacrifice (2 Samuel 24:18-25).
- B. Compassionate Christians.
 1. People don't care how much we know until they know how much we care.
 2. "Random acts of kindness."
 3. People are viewed as more than an inconvenience, but as an opportunity to let Christ live through us.
- C. Consistent Christians.
 1. The world is not looking for perfection in Christians. They know better than that. They are however, looking for authenticity and integrity.
 2. (Romans 6:14).

- Conclusion:
1. We will be an influence on others.
 2. We will either help or hinder the salvation of others.
 3. The challenge of being a disciple is to live in such a way that when people see us, they see Jesus.

