

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Is the King Series, Lesson 37

Lesson Title: The King Is a Prophet

Take Home Point: We are called to penetrate the world with Jesus' love.

Warm-Up:

Recall a time when you could not see because you were in genuine darkness. Perhaps it was while experiencing an electrical power failure at night or in a basement. Think about your feelings during the darkness and then when a friendly light finally appeared. How good it was to see that light! Even the dim glow of a candle or emergency lighting brought a sense of security and assurance that you could handle the situation or make your way out. And you really appreciated full light when it finally came, too, whether it was the restoration of electricity or the light of day after a dark night.

Read: Matthew 5:13-16

Observation (What happened?):

To what two things did Jesus compare those who follow him?

Why did Jesus tell them to be a light in the world?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does salt do for foods? Why did Jesus compare us to salt?

Who derives benefit from a light in the dark? Why did Jesus compare us to light?

Insight:

In our culture we tend to take salt and light for granted, since they are common and easily acquired commodities. While that was not true for most people in Jesus' day, the basic attributes and benefits of both were certainly the same then as now. Just a bit of salt enhances the flavor of many foods, and applying more will preserve the food item's wholeness and condition for human consumption for a length of time. Any light can be seen in the darkness, and in fact, the darker it is, the more visible a small light is. God understands the human condition and how much even a bit of his presence lights our world. Read Genesis 18:20-32. Even though Sodom was a city with perhaps thousands of people, God was willing to spare it because of ten righteous people who could shed his light. So do not consider your light to be insignificant or inconsequential; God values it and uses it for his purposes.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What is your power source to be salt and light in your world? (Read John 8:12 and Ephesians 3:16-21.)

Think of one thing you can start doing (or stop doing!) this week to be a brighter light to those around you.