



Shine

SERMON NOTES AND
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Outline

I. Introduction

- As you like it.
- Really?

II. Wrestle with the Most Difficult Question

- a. What is the meaning of life?

- b. How we answer this question determines how we live

III. What if there is no God?

- a. The Optimistic View: We will make our meaning

- i. Can we really just make our meaning?

- b. The Pessimistic View: Shakespeare was right

- i. Can we really build a life on despair?

IV. Consider the Claims of Jesus

- a. Who am I?

- b. Do I matter?

- c. Why am I here?

- d. Can I make a difference?

V. How can He shine through me?

Discussion Questions

Sharing Life Together

1. What was your favorite stories growing up and why?
2. Share a time when you felt like you were shining the glory of God (living into God's purpose for your life).

Reflecting on the Message Together

1. How would you answer the question, "What is the meaning of life?"
2. What do you think are the strongest arguments in favor of atheism?
3. What do you think are the strongest arguments against atheism?
4. How does Jesus help us answer the question, "Who am I?"
5. How does Jesus help us answer the question, "Do I matter?"
6. How does Jesus help us answer the question "Why am I here?"
7. How does Jesus help us answer the question, "Can I make a difference?"
8. What are practical ways we can be salt and light?
9. How did God speak to you through this message on shining?
10. How can we pray for one another?