Questions Sermon 10: Being Salt

1. What is in the context of Matthew 1-4 that is so important to the Sermon on the Mount?
2. Unless we are blown-away by Jesus, and fall at His feet in worship, the sermon will just make us feel bad. Why?
3. Look at the Beatitudes again. Why would I say that these things are counterculture to the world we live in?
4. "I'm much bigger on the inside than I am on the outside,” is the way this little girl described how she could eat so much cotton candy. I say it described what Jesus had been saying about the kind of heart His followers have. Has Christ completely captured your heart? How does the gospel do this?
5. Jesus is saying that disciples and only disciples of His can bring salt to a decaying world. When the government, marriage, legal and law enforcement, and other agencies serve to stem the flow of chaos in society, how can Jesus say such things?
6. The Scriptures show a number of ways salt can be used as a metaphor for the kingdom life of Christians in a fallen world. I emphasized (1) The Influence of our Purity (2) Our Impact as a Preservative, and (3) The Importance of our Testimony. As the salt of the earth, give some time to describe what this looks like in your personal life.
7. Charles Quarles says “hypocrisy damages our testimony, makes our claims counterproductive, and invites the judgment of the world that we are no different than they are.” Is the answer to this just to be better and try harder? If not, why not?
8. I said, “Their needs to be a reclamation that Christian’s lives matter.” I then broke that down to specific elements (what we believe, say, do think, etc). what one thing would you say you have slipped up on?
9. “The direction is not going home, it’s going out! It is the language of highways and byways, not the pew and the pulpit.” If we are not going out, and seeking the salvation of the lost, how can we be salt at all? What will that mean for us as a community of servants?
10. Lastly, please give some meditation to these kingdom qualities. Our job description is compassion. Our mission is grace. Our process is governed by selflessness. We are the salt of God in this very community. What are you asking God for your life and the life of our church this week?