
Matthew Chapters 5-7

Most of the time God does the miraculous though people.

Three ways God will work through you:

Matthew 5:13-16

Salt: to enhance others.

Light: to guide others.

Your story:

- An answer for Your hope and confidence
1 Peter 3:15-16
- When we don't know the answer: Come & See.
John 1:43-51
- When our story is just beginning: Come & See.
John 4:28-30 & 39-42

Food for Thought

For the week of November 11th 2012

(Questions and Scriptures for Life group study)

Review the questions below before your group meets.

DIGGING DEEPER

Jesus compares his followers to salt and light (Matthew 5: 13-16).
What do these metaphors suggest about our role in society?

Q: Do people in my school, workplace and neighborhood know that I am a disciple of Jesus Christ?

In what ways have I communicated this to those who know me?

How have I failed to let people know where I stand in my relationship with Christ?

What can I do to be more public about my faith in Christ?

Is the focus of my life to bring God glory (5:16)? How have I let my light shine this week to the glory of God?

Read Romans 15:14-22. In this passage, Paul proclaims to the Romans that God has bestowed a specific calling on him to be a minister (light bearer) of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. (14:14-16)

How did Paul describe the Christians in Rome? (15:14)

What was the focus of Paul's life? (15:17-18)

What was the only thing that Paul was willing to speak of? (15:18-19)

To what did Paul credit his success in evangelism? (15:18-19)

What was Paul's ambition? (15:20)

Why did Paul preach the gospel where Christ was not known? (15:20)

What had hindered Paul from coming to see the Roman church? (15:22)

Paul was given a very specific mission from God in this scripture.

What talents (salt) has God given you to serve him? How are you currently using those talents? (enhancing others)

Many times God gives us a specific burden for others He wants us to serve and minister to. What burden has God given you?

How can you tell if your work for God is motivated by self-interest or selfless devotion to God?

You have a story to tell. A story written by God. Review the "my story" material and be prepared to share your story with someone.

Pray for opportunity, pray for courage, pray for the person God is placing on your heart.

MY STORY

In anticipation of having an opportunity to tell someone your story, it helps to give some thought to what you've experienced so you can communicate your story clearly. For most of us, our story naturally falls into three parts. Below are those parts and some questions under each one. Use the questions to help you think through your story. You may want to write your answers down to help you think them through.

As you think about your story, remember that some people have a sudden conversion experience, while for others it can happen over a period of time without a clear pinpointed date. For those of you who can't remember the exact point in time you came to know Christ because you've been following Jesus from an early age, you'll probably struggle answering the questions in the first two parts, so you may want to focus your story on part three.

Part One - My Life Before I Became A Christian: Whichever way your relationship with Christ began, try to recall what your life was like before you became a Christian. What attitudes did you display? What were your behaviors and feelings about life?

Include here what brought you to the point where you knew you needed to turn to Jesus. Did you have a need that Jesus met? Were you at the end of your rope and couldn't go on? Was there a Christian whose life influenced you?

Part Two - How I Came To Jesus: What steps did you take to become a Christian? Did it happen at a specific time (like at a high school camp or church service) or was it a long process of giving Jesus the steering wheel of your life?