



## Teaching Notes: Daren Dirksen

October 7, 2012

**gospel in life –**

**Grace Changes Everything**

# desert breeze community church

## Part 5 - Witness – An Alternate City

Matthew 5:13-16

The theme of Jesus' preaching and ministry is the good news of the kingdom reign (4:17, 23). Jesus goes to a mountain and sits down with His disciples and teaches them (5:1-2) in front of a diverse crowd of followers (4:25), what it means to live in this kingdom (5:2).

Like the diverse crowd intently listening in, we too can listen in on what it means to be this kingdom community, on its kingdom mission, under its kingdom Lord. Let us have ears to hear, that we are to be a witness. We are to be an alternate city in this world for the glory of God.

**HOW?** (vs. 13-16a)

We are a city that is to live lives worth questioning and give answers worth hearing. ("Let your light shine before others")

Two Core Examples:

1. Salt - ("You are the salt of the earth.") (V.13, 2 Kings 2:20-21, Lk 14:34-35, Ez 16:4)

- It Preserves
- It Enhances

2. Light- ("You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill") (Vs. 14-15, Is. 42:6, 49:6, Rom 12:2, Jn 8:12, 17:17-26)

- It Exposes
- It Provides Direction

**WHY?** (v. 16b)

We are to be a witness to others so that there may be more worship of God. ("give glory") (Is 43:7-21, Ps. 96)

Two Key Elements:

1. Intimacy- ("to your Father")
2. Awe - ("who is in heaven" )

**Recommended Reading:** "Studies in the Sermon on the Mount" – D.M. Lloyd Jones



# Growing

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1. Read Mt. 5:13-16. What stood out to you from the text or sermon regarding this alternate city (salt and light)?
2. An alternate city gives answers worth hearing. What intimidates us about talking to the people God has placed in our lives (our "oikos") about Jesus? Are some more intimidating to talk to than others? Why?
3. An alternate city is made up of people who live lives worth questioning. There is credibility that comes if people see that the gospel is changing you and your community. Do people notice that you and your community live consistently differently? Do they appreciate it even if they do not understand it? Share examples.
4. Frank Retief, a pastor from South Africa writes, "People are going to hell. If you believe this, you have to take risks and be willing to fail." What do you think about this statement?
5. Why is gospel community such an effective way to reach people?
6. What motivates us to live lives worth questioning and give answers worth hearing?
7. What can you do as a small group to be salt and light to your oikos? Pray it out, plan it out and work it out.