

Discussion Notes

November 22, 2014

Follow – Part Three (Luke 14.34-35)

Doug Smith

Jesus closes his challenging works by using yet another concrete metaphor – salt.

- Salt was useful in Jesus' day, more useful than it is now.
- Uses: flavor, preservative, payment. Salt was so valuable it was sometimes used as wages. We get the word "salary" from the Greek word for this practice.
- Everyone valued salt because of its important purposes. Salt, however could also be ruined when it came into contact with water and lost its saltiness.

Doug shared about his story. Having become a Christian as a teenager and living full of zest for the purposes of God, he later lost his convictions and faith, wandering from God for fifteen years. Eventually he returned, like the prodigal son, and has served Jesus since that time. He knows what it is like to have lost a salty purpose, and also how God can give it back if we humble ourselves. It is never too late for us.

Even if you feel we have lost you flavor and faith, God will give it back and will always welcome us home. He has purpose for us and longs to see us walk in it.

Romans 12.1-2 (from The Message)

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Discussion Questions

- What does a "salty" Christian look and sound like?
- What does losing our salt look like? How might it be lost?
- How do we stay salty?
- If God's plan for you is to be full of flavor and full of the fruit of the Spirit, how do you think this plan might roll out in your life? Take some time to quietly consider this, and write down how you think God could use you? Pray and ask that he would give you vision and purpose and that his Spirit would fill you to achieve these things.