

## **Models of Mission - Matthew 5:13-16**

What should mission look like in the 21st Century? Jesus' model of salt and light gives us a framework. In this presentation, Lindsay Brown will try to unpack Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:13-16 and its implications for the contemporary church.

**Lindsay Brown** currently serves as the International Director of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation. Together with Richard Cunningham and Martin Haizmann, he directs the recently formed FEUER (Fellowship of Evangelists in the Universities of Europe) which seeks to stimulate the public communication of the Gospel in universities all across Europe. In 1991, he was asked to become the General Secretary of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) after leading its work. He was engaged in student ministry prior to coming on staff at IFES. He studied history at Oxford University, where he was elected President of the Christian Union.

**Tolstoy:** "He who wants an easy life was born in the wrong generation."

**Introduction** - What values and standards will dominate our culture? This is both an evangelistic and social question:

Jesus' models as salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16) - What did He mean?

### **1. Christians are radically different from non-Christians**

The two communities are contrasted with each other - 'the world' and 'you' as 'darkness' and 'light' and 'decay' and 'salt'. This is the theme of the whole Bible (See Leviticus 18: 1-4 / Matthew 6 : 8)

**2. Christians must penetrate non-Christian society. Although spiritually and morally distinct, we are not to be socially segregated. The light must shine into the darkness and salt must soak into and penetrate the meat.**

**3. Christians can influence and change non-Christian society**

Salt and light are effective: they change their environment, so why don't we Christians have a greater impact on society? If society goes bad, we must accept a large proportion of the blame. K.S. Latourette 'Six Weapons in our Christian Armoury':

a) prayer

b) evangelism

c) example

d) argument

e) action

f) suffering

#### 4. **Christians must retain their Christian distinctives**

The salt must retain its saltiness and the light its brightness, so Christians must penetrate but not assimilate the world.

Christ calls us to:

- a) a greater righteousness of heart
  
- b) a wider love of our enemies
  
- c) a noble ambition for God's rule and righteousness

#### **Conclusion**

We need a double repentance of

- a) our compromises
  
- b) our pessimism

**Robert Bellah:** “The quality of a culture can be changed if only 2% of the population share a common vision for a just and gentle society.”