

March 18th 2018

Your Christianity: Rational or Irrational?

Matthew 5:13-16

Two r _____ facts about a believer's purpose (13a, 14a)

●Fact #1 – Believers are the s _____ of the earth (13a)

1. The metaphor explained
 - a. Jesus is referring to a particular usage of salt - to make food t _____ better
 - b. The earth represents u _____
2. The metaphor applied
 - a. How believers live among the world should never leave a bad taste in the world's mouths
 - b. How believers live should add s _____ to their life (being merciful, humble, helpful, interested in their good)

●Facts #2 – Believers are the l _____ of the world (14a)

1. The metaphor explained
 - a. Jesus is referring to a particular usage of light – so that people can s _____
 - b. The world represents u _____
2. The metaphor applied
 - a. The world is in d _____ because of their sin (Jn 3:19)
 - b. By living out our relationship to Christ, people may realize that they are in sin and need Christ.

Two r _____ statements about a believer's actions (13b, 14b)

●Ridiculous statement #1 – if salt becomes _____, how can it be made to salt anything?

1. The metaphor explained
 - a. The group of words (*loses its taste, flavor, saltiness*) is translated by a single Greek word where we get our word m _____ which is usually translated as foolish (acting contrary to reason)
 - b. If salt were to act contrary, it would not salt anything and would be good for n _____ (i.e. useless)
2. The metaphor applied
 - a. Jesus saved us from s _____ (it killed us spiritually and oppressed us)
 - b. It would be f _____ (irrational) for Christians to be in harmony with sin.

●Ridiculous statement #2 – a city on a hill cannot be h _____

- a. The metaphor explained – a city which is built on a hill is designed to be s _____

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- b. The metaphor applied – we are not to keep our Christianity (our relationship to Christ) to o_____. Our Christianity should be evident.

One r_____ conclusion (16)

●One more metaphor – lighting a lamp

1. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a b_____
 - a. The container was one that held g_____ and so did not have any spaces in it for light to pass through
 - b. This action would b_____ the light
2. Everyone lights a lamp and puts it on a stand so that people in the h_____ can see.

●The metaphor applied - *Let your light shine before people like this: that they may see your good works and glorify your heavenly Father.*

1. Light refers to g_____ which is simply doing what God w_____
2. Examples of good works
 - a. H_____ someone because God wants me to
 - b. P_____ for someone because God wants me to
 - c. Do g_____ to someone because God wants me to
 - d. W_____ to someone because God wants me to
 - e. Unselfishly l_____ my fellow believer.
3. The manner in which we do good works must put the focus on G_____ so that He is glorified, not us.

Conclusion:

- Irrational Christianity is acting contrary to the way that God has designed you (that's called s_____ or disobedience)
 - Rational Christianity is acting in accordance to the way that God has designed you (that's called being s_____ and l_____)
1. Salt - Do your actions add spice to the life of the unbelievers around you?
 2. Light - Do your actions point people to the Lord?