



Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *Connected and Distinct*

Text: Matthew 5:13-16 & Matthew 9:9-13

Service Date: June 9, 2024

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

Getting Started

- Have you ever had a time in your life where you found yourself overscheduled, committed to too many things, or feeling isolated by too much distinction?
- Do you tend to be more of an introverted person or an extroverted person? Why?

Sermon Discussion

- What do you think some advantages to staying connected to others in the church might be?
- Jesus often went off by Himself to pray to His Father. Are there any spiritual habits you've found especially beneficial in your walk with Him?
- "Salt is only useful when it's good, active and engaged doing what it's supposed to do where it's supposed to be." Have you ever felt your "saltiness" slip when you are straying from God's plan of connection and distinction for your life?
- Matthew 5:13-16 says, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Where are some areas of connection in your life that you can use to shine your light for Christ?
- Jesus shows us in Matthew 9 (as He dines with the publicans and sinners) that it is possible both to remain connected to the "sick" in order to witness to them as well as remain distinct and maintain your conviction and character. Have you ever had to struggle with the balance of witnessing to

someone while still remaining distinct?

- Why do you think it's so difficult to remain separated from the fleshly lusts of this world (1 Peter 2:11-12)?
- Have you ever had an opportunity to share your testimony/the Gospel with someone because someone noticed how distinct and different you were from everyone else in the world?
- Matt pointed out that we need to look out at the lost people of this world as Jesus does in Matthew 9:35-38, "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them..." Are there certain people or groups you struggle to view with compassion?
- At the end of Matt's sermon, he gives a diagram of a triangle with three points to help us keep balanced between connection and distinction. The three points of the triangle were, (Up) We have to focus on Jesus, (In) Focus on Jesus followers for support, and (Out) We still have to reach out to those who don't know Jesus. What would this practically look like when put into practice in our lives?

Resources

Book: *The Next Christians: Seven Ways You Can Live the Gospel and Restore the World* by Gabe Lyons

Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?

We'd love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village's values is "Stories of Life Change". Visit tri-village.org/yourstory and share how God worked.