

The Sermon on the Mount 04 - Salt & Light

Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

“The state of your soul is always expressed in your outer conditions and in the intangible influence which you radiate at large.” (Emmet Fox)

“As the world heads toward greater corruption and ultimate destruction, Christians labor toward the opposite direction by their distinctives, such as those listed in the Beatitudes.” (Vincent Cheung)

SALT

Salt had two common uses in the ancient world:

1. To add flavor
2. To Preserve freshness

Saltiness: the call of Jesus upon us to be different from the world in which we live (a core principle throughout the Sermon on the Mount).

Additional Scriptures:

1 John 2:15-16

James 4:4b

Ephesians 2:3

1 Pet. 4:2

Titus 2:12

Col 4:6

“Salt doesn't actually lose its flavor; it simply becomes ineffective when diluted.” (Vincent Cheung)

(over)

LIGHT

In the Bible, LIGHT = positive (holiness, truth) DARKNESS = negative (sin, evil)

Isaiah 9:2

Ephesians 5:8-14a

Jesus is the Light that comes into the world!

John 1:1-13 (the Message)

Jesus speaks to darkness and light, in reference to Himself:

John 8:12

John 12:35-36

Jesus tells us that we ARE the light of the world.

How might we hide our light?

1. Never speaking of our faith
2. Refusing to care for others
3. Taking glory for ourselves instead of God

SUMMARY

Being Salt and Light = loving our neighbor

Next week we'll continue with Christ's relationship to the Law. Here are some questions you might ask as you read Matthew 5: 17-20:

1. From this passage, how would you summarize the view that Jesus had of the Law?
2. Did His critics believe His regard for Scripture? Why or why not? (look for evidence in the Scriptures.)
3. How might Jesus' view of Scripture influence our view of its importance in our lives?
4. Are the Ten Commandments important for Christians today?
5. How does Jesus' the statement in Matthew 5:20 harmonize with His earlier statement that "only those poor in spirit will enter the kingdom (5:3)?"
6. What would you say to a Christian who believes that, because of Grace, we are no longer responsible to obey God's Law? Which Scriptures could help you in your response?
7. If the Gospel is the means by which we are saved, why is a proper view of the Law so critical to our understanding of our salvation?