

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: Matthew 5:13-16

A Christian's Influence

I. Review From Last Week

A. The Beatitudes

1. A *unified* description of a true Christian (poor in spirit, mourn over sin, meek, etc.)
2. Each blessing has both "now" and "future" aspects (e.g., comfort received in Christ now, but also in New Heaven/New Earth)

B. Three Transition Questions

1. Do you think the Beatitudes can be lived out in isolation? Explain the *horizontal* (man-to-man) implications of living out these "kingdom norms."
2. What does the final Beatitude say about the relationship between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world?
3. Can believers still have a positive impact in the world today? How?

II. True Christians are SALT

"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." (Matt 5:13)

A. As a PRESERVATIVE

1. What did Jesus imply about the world when He used this metaphor? Where do you see evidence of this fact?
2. How do you think the Christian is called to serve as a preservative for the world? How have Christians done this in the wrong way? What is a better way to counter the world's decay?

B. As a FLAVOR

"Life without Christianity is insipid. Does not the world today prove that? ...It is utterly tasteless and men have to drug themselves in various ways because they feel their need of a savior." - Martyn

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." (Col 4:6)

1. How does our use of salt on food teach use how to have "salty" speech?

"As a general rule, I have the fashions of society, and detest conventionalities, and if I conceived it best to put my foot through a law of etiquette, I should feel gratified in having it to do. No, we are men, not slaves; and are not to relinquish our manly freedom, to be the lackeys of those who affect gentility or boast refinement. Yet, brethren, anything that verges upon the coarseness which is akin to sin, we must shun as we would a viper. The rules of Chesterfield are ridiculous to us, but not the example of Christ: and He was never coarse, low, discourteous, or indelicate." - Charles Spurgeon

2. What does it mean, therefore, to lose one's "saltiness"? Can salt lose its taste?

III. True Christians are LIGHT

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶ 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." (Matt 5:14)

A. As a CITY

1. Again, what did Jesus imply about the world when He used the metaphor of light? How is this true given the vast knowledge the world has gained even in our lifetime?

[Jesus' words, 'You are the light of the world' should cause us] "to realize once more what a remarkable and glorious thing it is to be a Christian. ...There is obviously no light at all in this world apart from the light that is provided by Christian people and the Christian faith. That is no exaggeration." - Martyn Lloyd-

2. Why is it hard for us to relate to the crucial function of a lighted city on a hill?

B. As a LAMP

1. How can the Christian alone explain the cause of the world's darkness? What is it?

"And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed." (John 3:19-20)

2. What should the light of Christians do for the world, according to Eph 5:6-14?
3. What is the goal of Christians living as 'light-transmitters'? Do you respond to the good works done by Christian in this way?

"We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing." (2 Thess 1:3)

"We are watched by a thousand eagle eyes; let us so act that we shall never need to care if all heaven and earth, and hell, swelled the list of spectators...take heed, brethren, that you throw not away the advantage." - Charles Spurgeon,

SIDE NOTE: Interesting point about Free Will from Jonny C:

"Now, if the glory of good works cannot be properly ascribed to God, unless they are traced to him, and unless he is acknowledged to be their only Author, it is evident, that we cannot, without offering an open and gross insult to God, extol free will, as if good works proceeded wholly, or in part, from its power. Again, we must observe, how graciously God deals with us, when he calls the good works *ours*, the entire praise of which would justly be ascribed to himself." - John Calvin. *Commentary on Matthew. Mark. Luke.*