

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Salt of the Earth, Light of the World

Matthew 5:13-20

Previously:

- **Beatitudes** - supreme blessedness, or happiness
- Where do our attitudes point us?
- Situation and circumstance shouldn't be the driver of our joy
- Seeing God in those events is our aim

Our role in righteousness

What our lives should look like and point to

[Pray]

5:13

Salt of the earth

If one were to season the entire earth, how much would it take?

My dad salting food growing up

Ash with butter

The point of salt - bringing out flavor and preservative

Too much salt - all you taste is salt

Too little salt - food is bland

Scurvey on boats without citrus fruit

Drying, curing meats - jerky!

Refrigeration and freezing is modern, past ~150 years

Jesus is saying the world needs to be preserved.

Situations in life need heavenly flavor

There's a reason the world is rotting so quickly -

perhaps the salt of the church has lost it's flavor!

To the Last Days church, Jesus says this:

[Rev 3:14-16 NKJV] 14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold

or hot. 16 "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

table salt with additives can lose its flavor and texture over time, natural salts like sodium chloride (NaCl) are extremely stable and cannot lose their flavor.

Genuine salt cannot lose it's flavor - are we genuine? Where does our flavor come from?
Has our witness faded? Are we not as excited about our faith as we once were?

Salt brings out the flavor in other things - our lives are bland, but should bring out the flavor and aroma of heaven - with our beatitudes

But the main thing Jesus is saying, is summed up in a few verses...

:14-15

You are the light of the world

Jesus is saying the world is dark!

[Psa 119:105 NKJV] Your word [is] a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Kids singing with sparklers "light unto my path"

The world thinks it knows a thing or two, and maybe it does about practical things

But about spiritual things, it has no clue!

[Mat 6:22-23 NKJV] 22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great [is] that darkness!

The world talks about

- Aliens
- Mental illness
- Right and wrong
- History
- Science
- Society, social issues
- Religion

But without the word of God, it is all darkness!

Not wisdom, but foolishness

So if we're the light of the world - we should be out in the open

Politics, society (Paul on Mars Hill), culture

But our kids are not the cannon fodder - sending your kids to a public school is not making them a city on a hill but making them meat for the wolves

City on a hill

Looking out on lights at night

Can't be hidden, like a lighthouse to a traveler

North star - a place to look to follow

Light a lamp and put it under a basket

Fire hazard! (fire department signs up the road)

Light needs to shine

Don't waste your batteries! Shine everywhere you go.

Parable of 10 virgins in Matthew 25

Gives light to all in the house

Whether people believe you or not, follow you or not, is not the goal

It's that they see the light and have opportunity to follow it

*I think sometimes we (I) hide it because I don't think they'll follow - i
t's not for me to judge whether they will or not, or who's worthy of it -
although we shouldn't cast our pearls before swine*

When the light shines in the house...

it wakes people up

Helps them see what they're doing (mom when little)

Exposes the sin done in the dark

Brings folks to faith

Many stories in the Bible of entire households being saved due to one person's faith in the family

How important it is we're a good witness to our family first! Then those outside the house

Qualifications of leadership and pastors

Good leaders of their families!

:16

Here's the sum

1 - they have to see your good works!

We're not doing them to be seen ourselves

Jesus rebukes that
 That's pride, that's self righteousness
 But if nobody ever sees it, they won't see God working through the works

[Jas 2:17-18 NKJV] 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

So we do our works when compelled to, but we don't do it for our own glory.
Always pointing the glory back to God

If there truly is a righteous work, it is done to glorify God - and don't care if anyone sees or not - and it will glorify God

*We tend to try and glorify the vessel - and the vessel should always point to God
 He made the vessel*

If all we see is the vessel and all the vessel cares about is our praise - then I question whether it was God worked at all - or at the very least, if the people praising and receiving care about God's glory

Glorify YOUR Father in Heaven

The personal relationship between us and the father shown again
 Jesus, the Son of God, constantly reminding us of the Father and our position with him - as His children through faith in His son

:17-18

Jesus' teaching was otherworldly

It revealed it's true aim, pointed to God in ways that were lost to the Jews

Religion had gotten in the way
 Works based righteousness removed all heavenly flavor from the commands

Commands meant to protect and instruct not to make one righteous

[Gal 3:23-25 NKJV] 23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor [to bring us] to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

**Jesus was teaching what the Word meant - what it looked like fulfilled
 And it wasn't like the teachers of their day, the sadducees and pharisees**

His preaching was full of life

When we come to the Word, when we hear the Word taught, is it alive? Does it make us alive?
Or do we want to fall asleep or worse, die?

It may cut us from time-to-time, but it should never kill us spiritually - it should revive us

It is living and active

Thou shalt not murder - a command

Should not make us feel bummed that we can't go and murder

(Jesus will show us soon that that's a condition of the heart)

People today claiming reproductive rights taken away by not being able to murder their own babies in utero

The law is meant to show us the value of life - it must not be taken - and if it is, the one who took it must forfeit their own life - the death penalty

Life is valuable and must be protected at all costs

The righteous will defend it, the wicked will defend the right to take it

MAID medical assistance in dying - or state funded murder/suicide

*Abortions, euthanasia out of "compassion" - you know who else did that? The NAZIs
Then it extended to undesirables - down syndrome, defects, eventually anyone not of the
parties' desirable race - think we're not just about there? THINK AGAIN.*

The law is meant to protect life - #1 our relationship with God, #2 our relationships with each other

It's showing what is good and what is bad

It brings death to us - because our sinful hearts want the bad - others lose that we might gain (in our estimation)

One jot or tittle - all the little punctuation marks

Jesus fulfilled them all

Nobody could!

If you break one, you break them all!

Murder - you're taking God's place, taking life that you didn't give, stealing from the family and the future of that person (who knows what they would have done in life)

More we'll look at in verses to come

:19-20

Least in the kingdom - they're still there, but there's no reward

The only reward is not being in hell

[Jas 3:1 NKJV] 1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

It's one thing to have book smarts, but until we obey the law we cannot truly understand it

Many go around claiming to understand the word of God, even "teaching" it

But they don't understand it, they lead others astray in it

There always have been these false teachers

But today there are far more

Leading by example

We should listen to and follow those who not only say the right thing, but do it as well

Actions speak louder than words

Jesus calls out the Scribes and Pharisees!

These guys try and follow the law to the letter - but in it, they've missed God

That these guys, who thought they were perfect

And gave off the air of perfection

Still fell short!

What an impossible task!

[Mat 19:23-26 NKJV] 23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 "And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When His disciples heard [it], they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" 26 But Jesus looked at [them] and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

But with God, and only God, it is possible

Jesus fulfilled the law - to the point of death - and that's our entry in

That's where our righteousness comes from

Isaiah - filthy rags

The world mocks and says that we have to please a God who said "believe in me or die"

No, he said believe in my son or you will die - not out of spite (they're making God in their own homage) but because Jesus is life.

If we reject the only source of life, what other outcome is there?

Don't you want to be great in the Kingdom of Heaven?

Not for your own glory, but that you might be a part of what God is doing?

Don't you want your life to count for something? Have some kind of meaning?

Don't you feel that longing for real, eternal purpose?

God put that there. You're meant to be a light. You're meant to be salt. You're meant to fulfill God's purposes on earth!

But isn't Jesus the light of the world?

Yes, but you are the lamp!

The Holy Spirit is the flame, the oil!

Burn for Him. Burn bright in the world.

[Rom 12:1-2 NKJV] 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

I submit to you, that the way you burn, and burn bright - is through those beatitude situations.

Anyone can be happy and joyful in blessing, and there is some light there

But what burns the most bright? The light in the darkness.

When God allows hard times in our lives - it's our opportunity to connect with Him, and let Him power us to shine bright - as a living sacrifice - holy and acceptable to Him

That others might see

That God might be glorified

This is how folks will come to faith