

THE GREATEST SERMON EVER PREACHED

Matthew Chapter 5

● **Matthew 5:13-16**

¹³ Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

¹⁴ Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

The Beatitudes describe the essential character of the followers of Jesus. The salt and light indicate their influence for good in the world. These 4 verses are entitled “**A Christian’s Influence: Salt and Light.**”

When Jesus says, “**You are the salt of the earth,**” He is saying that as the world decays like rotten fish or meat, the church can prevent its decay and preserve its influence. Those whom God has saved in Jesus Christ should think of themselves as salt. We are salt, not literally, but by resemblance.

Christians are to season souls for God by reaching out to the world and witnessing to them about the love of God and the redemptive blood of Jesus. As salt arrests natural corruption, so does the Word of God prevent spiritual decay and moral corruption. As salt preserves and keeps, it is the Word of God that preserves and keeps us in the faith.

● **Deuteronomy 8:3**

³ And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.

● **Matthew 4:4**

⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

● **Psalm 119:11,15, 16, 105, 140**

¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

¹⁵ I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

¹⁶ I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

¹⁴⁰ Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.

- **Psalm 37:23**

²³ The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.

- **Psalm 119:133**

¹³³ Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

The religion of Jesus Christ is a religion of faith.

- **II Corinthians 5:7**

⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

- **Hebrews 11:6**

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

The Bible tells us how to develop our faith.

- **Romans 10:17**

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

This is why the role of the preacher is so very important to the Christian religion.

- **Romans 10:14-15**

¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

- **John 1:1, 14**

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The salt refers to God's Word. After the salt, Jesus says, "**His followers are to be light.**" Spiritually, the world is in darkness and sits in the shadow of death.

- **Matthew 4:16**

¹⁶ The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

The world is turning away from Christ who is the true Light of the world.

- **John 1:4-9**

⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

⁷ The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

⁹ That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Jesus makes it known that we should not hide our light. We are commissioned by God to shine. Men in darkness need to see our light shining for Jesus.

- **Matthew 5:16**

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

- **Matthew 5:15**

¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Question? Do the persons living in your house see your light shining for Christ?

We want our light to shine:

1. **Privately** – in our homes;
2. **Publicly** – before the world;
3. **Purposefully** – to glorify God.

If you took everything Jesus did while He was on earth and put in a pie, you could cut that pie in 3 slices:

1. 1/3 of the time He was talking about **His Father**,
2. 1/3 of the time He was talking about the **Kingdom**, and
3. 1/3 of the time He was talking about **LOVE**.