

Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:13-20

Roxborough Bible Chapel

February 24, 2019

Sermon on the Mount – Being Salt and Light

• **Matthew 5:13-16**

13. You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.
14. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.
15. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house.
16. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

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	<u>Physical Salt</u>	<u>Spiritual Salt (Salty Christians – Application!</u>
Good Salt	Seasons food	We can show the world that we have true meaning to life and how exciting it is to live for Christ
	Brings out the flavor	We can add "pizzazz" or spice to the human society.
	Hinders corruption, preserves a quality of food	We can slow down the decay and sins of human society through the Holy Spirit's influence
	Creates thirst	Our lives should show the world that they want the life that we have, longing for the righteousness described in the beatitudes.

Be a Salty Christian!

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	Creates thirst	Our lives should show the world that they want the life that we have, longing for the righteousness described in the beatitudes.
Bad Salt	It is useless once it loses its flavor, there is no way that it can restore its usefulness. All it is good for is to be trampled underfoot by men.	Saltless disciples are good for nothing. They are only to be trampled under foot by men.
	Used to fuel the fire until a chemical reaction occurs that makes the salt useless.	Burnt out Christians can have little to no effect on the world.
	The Greek word Jesus uses for “tasteless” is moraino meaning “foolish, to play the fool, insipid, dull, flat or deficient.	Perhaps this implies that a foolish disciple has no impact on his world.

Be a Salty Christian!

Matthew 5:14-15 ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house.

- How can disciples know they are tasteless?
 - He starts by telling them they are the “light of the world” referring to common everyday things.
- The lamp Jesus mentions was a small lamp designed to be put on a lampstand to provide light in a room. What makes this illustration very meaningful is that the typical Jewish home was a one room building, and when the lamp was set on the lampstand, it would give light to everyone in the home.
- Jesus did not say:
 - they were to be a small lamp in just one room.
 - they were to be a light on a hill to be seen throughout just Israel.
- Jesus said His disciples were to be the light of the WHOLE world.
- If you are a Christian, are you secluding yourself and hiding your light?
 - **Matthew 10:33** But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

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<u>Physical Light</u>	<u>Jesus as THE Light of the World</u>
Light shines in darkness (He dispels/displaces the darkness)	John 1:9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
Jesus is THE Light of the world.	John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
	John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
He came as a light into the world	John 12:46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

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<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Christians as lights of the world</u>
Sons of light	John 12:35-36 ³⁵Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.
We have the light of life	John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
We are lights in the world	Philippians 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
We are guides to the blind	Romans 2:19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,
We put on the armor of light	Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.
We walk in light	I John 1:5-7 ⁵This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
We are not understood by darkness	John 1:5-7 ⁵And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- **Do you want to please the Lord? (As believers we should want to out of love for our Lord and Savior.)**
 - **Be a light to the world.**
 - **Be a godly example of goodness, righteousness and hold to Biblical truth.**
 - **Ephesians 5:8-9** 8For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. 9(for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)
 - **What about Biblical truth? Jesus is going to talk about that next . . .**

Sermon on the Mount – Fulfilling the Law

• Matthew 5:17-19

- **17 Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**
- **18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.**
- **19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**

Matthew 5:17-19 – Fulfilling the Law

- **Jesus was a false teacher to the Jewish rabbis.**
- **His teachings did not agree with what they taught and He was not a member of the scribes, Pharisees, or Sadducees.**
- **Much had already happened before Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount.**
 - **Jesus had been baptized, tempted in the wilderness, sought after by maybe thousands for healing and had been confronted by these religious leaders. Jesus had already corrected the religious leaders when a crowd was present. It was the rabbis who were the false teachers and not Jesus. The conflict must have been obvious to the people.**
- **So Jesus says, “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets”**

Matthew 5:17-19 – Fulfilling the Law

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- **Most revolutionary leaders want to start afresh with new laws severing all ties with the past.**
- **But, not so with the Lord Jesus.**
 - **He upheld the Law of Moses and insisted that it must be fulfilled.**
 - **Jesus had not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill them.**
 - **He clearly insisted that not one jot or one tittle would pass from the law until it was completely fulfilled.**
 - **The jot, or *yod*, is the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet**
 - **The tittle is a small mark or projection that serves to distinguish one letter from another, much as the bottom stroke of a capital *E* distinguishes it from a capital *F*.**
 - **Jesus believed in the literal inspiration of the Bible, even in what might seem small unimportant details. Nothing in Scripture, even the smallest stroke, is without significance.**
- **Jesus did *not* say that the law would *never* pass away. He said it would not pass away till all was fulfilled.**
- **He did not wave the law aside; rather He met the full demands of the law by fulfilling its strict requirements in His life and in His death. Thus, the gospel does not overthrow the law; it upholds the law and shows how the law's demands have been fully satisfied by Christ's redemptive work.**
- **Teachers can “remove portions of scripture” or “change scripture” by the way they teach it or do not teach it. That was what the Pharisees were doing. Why is Jesus so serious? It is His Word.**

Matthew 5:17-19 – Fulfilling the Law

- **Verse 19** Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
- We notice that Jesus anticipated a natural tendency to relax God's commandments.
 - People tend to explain them away, rationalize their meaning, etc.
- But whoever breaks one part of the law, and teaches other people to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven.
 - The wonder is that such people are permitted in the kingdom at all—but then, entrance *into* the kingdom is by faith in Christ.
 - A person's position *in* the kingdom is determined by his obedience and faithfulness while on earth.
 - The person who obeys the law of the kingdom—that person shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:17-19 – Fulfilling the Law

- **Conclusion**
- Jesus came to fulfill the very Law He gave – a divine Law that is absolutely unchangeable until heaven and earth pass away. Jesus has warned us to be accurate in what we tell our friends, children, neighbors or those at church about the meaning of His Word. He has asked us to diligently study it, memorize it, and meditate on it so that we can. Let us be faithful and seek His truth!

Sermon on the Mount – Examine Your Righteousness

• **Matthew 5:20**

- **20** For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:20 – Examine Your Righteousness

- To gain entrance into the kingdom, our righteousness must surpass the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees (who were content with religious ceremonies which gave them an outward, ritual cleansing, but which never changed their hearts).
- External righteousness without internal reality will not gain entrance into the kingdom.
- The only righteousness that God will accept is the perfection that He imputes to those who accept His Son as Savior
 - II Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- Of course, where there is true faith in Christ, there will also be the practical righteousness that Jesus describes in the remainder of the Sermon.
- I Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “...For *the* LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

Matthew 5:20 – Examine Your Righteousness

- **Conclusion**
- **Jesus' message to us is that God is more interested about who we are on the inside.**
- **That is the message of the beatitudes.**
- **Many people strive to serve God or do for God out of fear or to gain His favor. That is how the scribes and Pharisees started.**
- **But the Christian already has the favor of God. That is God's grace – "undeserved favor." We are His children (John 1:12) and He is a loving Father who will discipline us when we sin (Hebrews 12:4-13). We can never lose His favor.**