

Lessons from the Mountain

Christ-followers Make a Difference

Matt 5:1-2 & 13-16 - *And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:*

¹³You 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. 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. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

You are the Salt of the Earth

A person who is considered to be honest, dependable, and trustworthy.

Someone who is humble, genuine, and unpretentious.

People who form the backbone of society due to their hard work and integrity.

Individuals who are essential or invaluable to a community or group.

People who may a difference.

****Illustration:** deviled eggs which had no salt.

As salt, our lives, our faith walk, should cause people to respond. It should make a difference. I should cause people to want more.

Ps 34:8 - *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*

Mark 9:50 - *Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.*

Col 4:6 - *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

Reasons Salt Loses its Flavor

Dilution – “watering it down”

Gal 1:6-9 - *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.*

Col 2:8 - *Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.*

2 Peter 2:1 - *But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.*

Exposure – “contaminating”

1 Cor 6:11-18 - *O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections. ¹³ Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open. ¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” ¹⁷ Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” ¹⁸ “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.”*

Clumping

Matt 28:18-20 - *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

*Jesus sent the 72 disciples in pairs.

*Persecution scattered them.

You are the Light of the World

Matt 5:14-16 - *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.*

Our Light Should be Seen

"cannot be hidden" and "on a lampstand"

Pro 4:18 - *But the path of the just is like the shining sun that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.*

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."*

Our Light is Your Good Works

Eph 2:10 - *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Our Faith is intended to be Action-Oriented!

1 Peter 2:11-12 - *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

Our Light Should Glorify God

John 15:8 - *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

John 15:1-2 - *I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

John 15:5-6 - *I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.*

Just as Salt enhances flavor and Light dispurses darkness we, as Christ-followers, should make a *DIFFERENCE!*

Has our Salt lost its flavor?

Do our Light, our Good Works, glorify God?