

SINGLE TRUTHS – *Post Easter Teachings*

April 25th – A Living Blessing

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

Matthew 5:13-16 NLT

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12 NLT)

³ “God blesses those who are **poor** and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

⁴ God blesses those who **mourn**, [a mourning over personal sin] for they will be comforted.

⁵ God blesses those who are **humble**, [to be meek means to be free from a vengeful spirit – exercising self-control]

for they will inherit the whole earth [entrance into the new heaven and the new earth, like the OT reference to the Israelites inheritance of the Promised Land].

⁶ God blesses those who **hunger and thirst** for justice [yearning for righteous justice to be found in its wholeness],

for they will be satisfied.

⁷ God blesses those who are **merciful** [forgiveness for the guilty and compassion for the suffering and needy],

for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ God blesses those whose **hearts are pure** [having a sincere moral purity, not and external, deceitful presence of purity],

for they will see God.

⁹ God blesses those who **work for peace** [a reference to the work of Jesus: [Ephesians 2:15](#) “He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups.”],

for they will be called the children of God.

¹⁰ God blesses those who are **persecuted for doing right** [make no mistake, the world and its influencer – the enemy of God – is not going to let God’s work go without difficulty, but...],

for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

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¹¹ “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! **Be very glad!** For **a great reward awaits you in heaven.** And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Then Jesus put the task squarely on the shoulders of His disciples.

1. Jesus likened His disciples to **salt**.

They were to the world what salt is in everyday life:

- Salt seasons food,
- hinders the spread of corruption or decay,
- creates thirst,
- brings out the flavor.

So, His followers are to:

- add a contrasting flavor to human society,
- promote eternal preservation,
- develop a longing in the hearts of others for the righteousness (or right living) described in the Beatitudes, and to
- bring out a greater desire for spiritual identity.

If salt loses its flavor, how can its saltiness be restored?

There is no way to restore the true, natural taste.

Once it has lost its flavor, salt is **good for nothing**. It is discarded on a footpath.

Albert Barnes’s comment on this passage is illuminating:

*The salt used in this country is a chemical compound—and if the **saltiness** were lost, or it were to lose its **savor**, there would be nothing remaining. In eastern countries, however, the salt used was impure, mingled with vegetable and earthly substances; so that it might lose the whole of its saltiness, and a*

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considerable amount of tasteless residue remain. This was good for nothing except that it was used to place in paths, or walks, like we use gravel.

The “salt” is nothing but a pretender of its intended purpose.

If Christ’s followers cannot inject the changing, preservative power of the Holy Spirit into a bland, unspiritual world then the mission of Christ Jesus has failed.

2. Jesus also calls Christians **the light of the world**.

He spoke of Himself as “the light of the world” (John 8:12; 12:35, 36, 46).

The relationship between these two statements is that Jesus is the source of light.

Christians are the reflection of His light casting the light of His goodness and loving kindness just as the moon reflects the light of the sun.

Philippians 2:15 says,

“Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.”

Followers of Jesus are elevated above our surroundings and shines in the midst of darkness like **a city that is set on a hill**.

Those whose lives exhibit the traits of Christ’s teaching **cannot be hidden**.

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How can we do this?

We have one great function—to be to the world as Christ was to us:

To create a difference around us, by reflecting the very image of our Savior!