

# SALT + LIGHT



# NOTES

## for today's message

### **DEVOTED: AN EARNEST ATTACHMENT TO SOMEONE OR SOMETHING**

- Matthew wants us to see that often what draws us to Jesus is not devotion for who He is, but what He can do for us.

**MATTHEW 4:24-5:2** So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. 25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan. 5 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

#### **Matthew shows us 2 groups of people who are following Jesus:**

##### **1. The Crowd**

- Crowds wanted Jesus to do for them, but they were not loyal to Him.

**MATTHEW 21:8-9** Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

**MATTHEW 27:20-22** The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22 Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!"

##### **2. The Disciples**

- Their personal ambition got in the way of seeing Jesus clearly

**MATTHEW 20:20-21** Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. 21 And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom."

- All of us come to Jesus with our own agenda
- Jesus has no desire to fit neatly into our agenda
- He's not asking to be invited into your life, He is inviting you into His.

Brian Loritts - If you can achieve Christianity without the Christ of Christianity, you ain't doing Christianity.

- If we are going to take Jesus seriously, we have to take the Bible seriously.

## 2 Things to remember as we study the Sermon on the Mount

### 1. Jesus does not dumb down the Bible

- Whoever relaxes the least of these commandments will be the least in the Kingdom of heaven.

**MATTHEW 5:31-32** "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

### 2. Jesus overwhelms us with the Bible

- Jesus doesn't just raise the standard a bit; He raises the standard out of reach, to the point that we can't do it on our own strength.

**MATTHEW 5:21-22A** "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment;"

**MATTHEW 5:7** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

**MATTHEW 5:20** 'For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

**ROMANS 5:17** For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

- The Sermon on the Mount is a look at what Christianity looks like.
- It is meant to overwhelm us, to show us how inadequate we are, so that we could then be overwhelmed by the grace of Jesus.
- Jesus overwhelms us that it might lead us back to him.

# STUDY GUIDE

*questions for later*

## Discussion:

1. What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?
2. **Reality check:** Thomas Jefferson is said to have cut out parts of the Bible that he didn't like or disagreed with and kept what he was comfortable with. How often are you like Thomas Jefferson, loving a sermon or a teaching of Jesus that you are passionate about, but ignoring what you are not comfortable with?
3. Read the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7:
  - Does Jesus dumb down the Bible? Does He relax the standard? Why or why not?
  - Does Jesus overwhelm us with the Bible? Does He raise the standard? Why or Why Not?
  - Is the point of the Sermon on the Mount the law, the rules? If not, what is the point?

## Action Steps:

- **HEART** - discover and deepen your relationship with Jesus through the daily devotional or a daily scripture reading plan. Invite three people of your same gender to commit to meeting together weekly for a year to discover and deepen your relationships with Jesus together.
- **HARD TO REACH** - identify someone this week who is far from Jesus. Find ways to hear their story and begin building a relationship with them.
- **HOME** - spend time with your family discussing ways to grow in devotion to Jesus so that His value in our life is easily and naturally seen by others.
- **HURTING** - identify someone who is hungry, sick, anxious, lonely, or has some other need. Find ways to meet that need.