

Sermon on the Mount

– 4 –

Salt & Light

- Jesus is living in Galilee
- Matthew 4:15-16 is a prophecy of Isaiah 9:1-2.
- "Galilee of the Gentiles" – a large non-Jewish population. Religious syncretism and less strict adherence to Jewish traditions.
- People living in spiritual darkness.
- He calls Andrew, Peter, James and John to follow Him.

Matthew:

- Tax Collector in Capernaum before following Jesus.
- Became a disciple of Jesus and
- Preached and wrote about what he saw
- First book of the New Testament

Jesus is healing, becomes popular in the region and surrounding areas, crowd gathers, calls the disciples to himself and begins to teach them what being a disciple in the kingdom looks like.

1. Poor in spirit – Recognizing our spiritual need for God; dependence on Him.
2. Mourn – Grieving over sin and brokenness leads to God's comfort that is found in repentance.
3. Meek – trusting God instead of asserting power.

4. Hunger and thirst for righteousness – Deep longing for God’s righteousness to satisfy us.
5. Merciful – give mercy, we receive mercy.
6. Pure in heart – Sincerity, holiness, and undivided devotion to God lead to seeing Him.
7. Peacemakers – Actively seeking reconciliation.
8. Persecuted for righteousness’ sake – Facing opposition for Christ’s sake is evidence of belonging to God’s kingdom.
9. You when others revile and persecute you – Rejoicing in suffering for Jesus, knowing there’s a great reward in heaven.

Matthew 5:13 (ESV) 13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. Why salt? In biblical times, salt was essential—it preserved food, added flavor, and even had healing properties. Salt was valuable, and Jesus is saying, “You are valuable to this world.”

- Salt was a currency.
- Roman soldiers often paid in salt because of the value.
- “Salary” comes from “salt”.
- Preservation – Christians preserve godliness and truth in a decaying world.
- Flavor – Salt enhances taste.
- Purification – Salt was used for cleansing.

How can salt lose its saltiness? Pure salt (sodium chloride) does not lose its saltiness. However, in the ancient world, it was

often impure—typically mined from places like the Dead Sea. This salt contained various minerals and impurities, and exposure to moisture or air could cause the actual salt (NaCl) to dissolve, leaving behind tasteless residue.

1 Peter 2:15-16 (ESV) 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Foolish people – those who don't believe in God, or believe in God but it changes nothing about their life.

Matthew 5:14-15 (ESV) 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

- Build on a hill to be noticed.
- There is no such thing as a hidden Christian.
- Jesus warns against hiding our light.

Matthew 4:16 (ESV) the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.

Matthew 5:16 (ESV) In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Table of the 5 Discourses in the Gospel of Matthew:

Discourse	Chapters	Focus/Theme
1. Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5–7	Kingdom principles and living for disciples.
2. Missionary Discourse	Matthew 10	Instructions for the Twelve as they are sent to preach and heal.
3. Parables of the Kingdom	Matthew 13	Parables illustrating the nature and growth of the Kingdom of Heaven.
4. Discourse on the Church	Matthew 18–20	Teachings on relationships, forgiveness, and discipline within the community of believers.
5. Olivet Discourse	Matthew 24–25	Prophecies about the end times, the return of Christ, and the final judgment.