

ESTABLISHED ON THE HILL

This sermon series will walk through Matthew 5–7, exploring the heart of Jesus' most famous teaching. From the Beatitudes to the Lord's Prayer, from dealing with anger to loving enemies, each week uncovers what it truly means to live as citizens of God's Kingdom. These aren't just lofty ideals—they are a blueprint for everyday discipleship.

Join us as we discover the transforming power of Jesus' words and how they call us to a deeper, more authentic way of living—anchored in grace, rooted in truth, and shining as a light in a dark world.

DAY 1

BEING SALT AND LIGHT

Reading: Matthew 5:13-18

Jesus calls us to be "salt and light" in the world. Salt preserves, flavors, and was highly valuable in ancient times. Light illuminates darkness and guides the way. As followers of Christ, we're called to preserve God's truth, add flavor to the world through our love and good deeds, and shine His light in dark places. Reflect on how you can be "salt and light" in your daily life.

Are there areas where you've lost your "saltiness" due to bitterness, anger, or unforgiveness? Ask God to renew your passion for Him and restore your effectiveness as His ambassador. Consider one specific way you can shine Christ's light today, whether through an encouraging word, an act of kindness, or boldly sharing your faith.

DAY 2 UNASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

Reading: Romans 1:16-17

The sermon highlighted moments when we might feel ashamed or hesitant to share our faith. Yet Paul declares he is "not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes."

The gospel message has the power to transform lives, reconcile people to God, and bring hope to the broken.

Reflect on times you've felt reluctant to share your faith.

What fears or insecurities hold you back? Remember that the same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in you. Ask God for boldness and opportunities to share His love. Practice articulating your testimony – how Christ has changed your life – so you're prepared to share when the moment arises.

DAY 3 FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

When we accept Christ, we move from the kingdom of darkness into His marvelous light. This transformation isn't just positional; it should be evident in how we live.

Paul urges us to "live as children of light" and to have nothing to do with fruitless deeds of darkness.

Examine your life. Are there areas where you're still clinging to darkness – habits, attitudes, or relationships that don't honor God? Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate these areas and give you the strength to walk in the light.

Consider how your life can be a beacon, exposing darkness and drawing others to the warmth and safety of God's love.

DAY 4 PRESERVING IN A DECAYING WORLD

Reading: Philippians 2:14-16

As salt preserves, we're called to be a preserving influence in a world prone to decay. Paul encourages us to "shine like stars" as we hold firmly to the word of life. This involves both our character (doing everything without grumbling or arguing) and our message (holding out the word of life).

Reflect on the cultural forces around you that promote decay – negativity, selfishness, moral relativism. How can you counteract these influences through your words and actions? Ask God for wisdom to engage with the world in a way that preserves truth and righteousness without compromising your witness. Consider one specific way you can be a positive, preserving influence in your workplace, school, or community today.

DAY 5 LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Reading: 1 Peter 2:9-12

Peter reminds us of our identity as God's chosen people, called out of darkness into His wonderful light. Our purpose is to "declare the praises" of God through our lives. This involves both our words and our actions – living such good lives among unbelievers that they see our good deeds and glorify God.

Reflect on the unique ways God has gifted you to shine His light. How can you use your talents, personality, and experiences to showcase God's goodness? Ask the Holy Spirit to make you sensitive to opportunities to let your light shine. Remember, you may be the only Bible some people ever read. Pray for the courage to live unashamed of the gospel, allowing Christ's light to shine brightly through you in every circumstance.