



The Beatitudes
Part 4
March 24, 2024

The Gospel of Saint Matthew 5:13-16, 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. 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. ¹⁶ 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.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word today, in Jesus Name! Amen!

I want to greet all of you and welcome you to our Palm Sunday Gathering here at The Assembly West Monroe as we celebrate the great entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem as they laid palm branches at His feet as He rode into the city. It was during the week of Passover that the sacrifice was made for our salvation through the Cross of Jesus Christ!

And my assignment today, as the Lord helps me, is remind us all of the Holy Calling that Christ has upon us! A Divine Calling upon the Church corporately and upon the Christian individually. Therefore, point #1...

1. Christ has Called His Church to be the Salt of the Earth until He Returns to Call Us Home!

a. 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.

b. Church family, Jesus did not establish His church to be silent nor did He give the Church the Power of the Holy Spirit for it to be powerless! We are called to be Salt and Light!

c. We have a holy command from Christ Himself to ensure that the Message of the Cross goes around the world and then the end shall come!

- d. The Gospel of Saint Matthew 24:14, “¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”
- e. Friends, if we truly desire for Christ to return and the end to come then we must be about the Father’s Business and ensure that the Gospel of the Kingdom is being preached!
- f. We have an investment from Heaven to release the power of Heaven into the Earth! But if we are not careful, we will allow the cares of this life to overshadow our calling and we in turn lose our saltiness.
- g. We lose the ability to cause other to thirst for what we have! Friends, we are the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ and it is high time that we rise to the occasion, set our feet firmly upon the rock of Ages and strive with the Might of the Holy Spirit to be a conduit for Heaven to invade the earth!
- h. But if we lose our saltiness... if we lose our savor... if we allow the things of this world to alter what we are and what we have been called to do then we have fallen short of our call and command!
- i. May we today choose to set eyes upon Christ, focus our hearts on heaven and make an impact on the world around us! Be encouraged today! God is not done with us yet!
Amen! Point #2...

2. Christ has Called His Church to be a City set upon a Hill until He Returns to Call Us Home!

- a. 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.”
- b. Church, we have been called to be a light in the earth to shine the light of the Gospel into all the world in so that man may come unto repentance!
- c. 2 Peter 3:8-9, ⁸“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”
- d. It is not the will of God that any perish but that all should come unto repentance and faith! And with that in mind, we have a job to do! We are not just called to occupy until He comes but also to take territory, to drive back darkness, to dispel deception and to Preach Jesus in Word and Deed!
- e. Stop hiding your light! Stop allowing others to dampen your light! Stop letting someone else blow out your candle! Tell your neighbor, keep your lamp burning! Keep the lamp burning!

f. Jesus gave us insight to this illumination in the parable of the Ten Virgins! The Gospel of Saint Matthew 25:1-13, ““Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’”

g. Church, we can't get sleepy. We can't get drowsy! We can't fall asleep! We can't afford to not have the Oil! There is a midnight cry that is coming and we must stay awake, keep our lamps trimmed, and our oil filled up!

h. We are the Light of the World and Jesus is calling us to lift the Light of the Cross high in this present age to ensure that Jesus is known in this generation!

3. Christ has Called His Church to be an Example of Christ in the Earth until He Returns to Call Us Home!

- a. ¹⁶“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.”
- b. The Assembly West Monroe, hear the clarion call of this preacher today! Jesus is coming and the World is watching the Church to see what we do and how we handle what is coming! Are we going to be the example or the antithesis?
- c. Will people look at our lives and glorify God or will they look at our lives and question if there even is a God?
- d. Church family, we are approaching the end of the Age! What Jesus prophesied about is all around and all at the very same time!
- e. The Gospel of Saint Luke 21:25-28, NKJV ²⁵“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

- f. Friends, there are lunar and solar eclipses that are manifesting, there are astrological signs in the heavens, the nations of the world in in distress and perplexity, the earth is convulsing with earthquakes and volcanoes and natural disasters, humanity itself seems to be on the verge of erupting due to economic and political conflicts. Matthew 24 / News
- g. Church, we had better wake up, pay attention and be vigilant about the things of God because Jesus is coming! And we had better straighten up and look up because we are going up in a moment; in a twinkling of an eye! Do you know Jesus?

Altar Call

Point of Connection: “Thank you for being with us today at The Assembly. We know that in a gathering of this size there are those who may have questions about how to begin or strengthen your relationship with God or questions concerning anything you experienced or heard here today. We have people who would love to talk with you and answer any of your questions. We also have free resources available to help you in your walk with the Lord. Please join us at our Next Steps table at the back of the sanctuary, just to the right of the exit. (Point to the area just to the right of the camera.)

Congregational Blessing

Transition to Closer - Head to front foyer