

# Somebody's Watching You

## CENTRAL QUESTION:

*How do believers live as salt and light under the world's watchful eyes with integrity and impact?*

## I. THE WORLD IS WATCHING (SETTING THE SCENE)

Key Idea: We live in an age of constant observation; our witness is under scrutiny, especially when we profess Christ.

Illustrations:

1. Installing security cameras in the church building; realizing “someone is watching” in every entrance and in the parking lot.
2. Spotting multiple cameras in stores and restaurants; the feeling of being seen everywhere.
3. Application: Our public confession intensifies attention on our conduct; our lives preach before our words do.

## II. SCRIPTURE FOUNDATION: MATTHEW 5:1–16

### A. The Beatitudes Shape the Disciple's Heart

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit: not self-pity, but humble dependence on God; “I can’t make it without You.”
2. Blessed are those who mourn: grief is real, but we rise and continue in hope; joy comes in the morning.
3. Blessed are the meek: strength yielded to God; accepting lowly position and letting God exalt in His time.
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: a holy appetite that God promises to fill.
5. Blessed are the merciful: we will need mercy, so we must give mercy; resist stone-throwing.
6. Blessed are the pure in heart: integrity before God leads to clear sight of God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers: known as God’s children by how we make peace.

8. Blessed are the persecuted: faithfulness brings pressure; endure reviling for Christ's sake.

Personal Illustrations:

- a. Seasons of loss and mourning in the pastor's life and God's sustaining grace.
- b. "Poor" versus "poor in spirit" contrasted through household stories and the temptation to live as if we have nothing to offer.

B. You Are The Salt Of The Earth (Matthew 5:13)

9. Salt adds flavor: our presence should make situations and relationships better.

10. Salt heals: like Epsom salt, believers bring care and restoration.

11. Salt preserves: truth and holiness slow decay; story of curing meat in a smokehouse.

12. Warning: salt without savor is trampled; a compromised witness loses influence.

C. You Are The Light Of The World (Matthew 5:14–16)

13. Light is meant to be seen: not hidden under a basket but placed to illumine the house.

14. Illustration: walking through a dark building without a flashlight; the folly of refusing available light.

15. Illustration: the moon reflects the sun; we reflect Christ's light, not our own.

16. Purpose: good works that cause people to glorify the Father, not us.

### III. INTEGRITY UNDER SCRUTINY: ACTS 5:1–11

A. Ananias and Sapphira: the danger of hypocrisy when the Spirit is at work.

1. They lied not merely to people but to the Holy Spirit.
2. God sees the heart; holiness matters to protect the witness of the church.

B. Balance of Grace and Truth:

3. God is merciful and gracious; we can repent and be restored.
4. Yet, integrity is essential because the world is watching the church.

### IV. THE MOMENT WE LIVE IN

A. Acknowledge cultural pressure and hostility toward biblical faith.

B. Call to stand firm on God's Word without compromise.

C. Pray for community transformation from the inside out; live as Christian warriors grounded in Scripture and love.

## V. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: HOW TO SEASON AND SHINE

A. Cultivate Beatitude character daily: humility, meekness, mercy, purity, peacemaking, endurance.

B. Add flavor: speak grace, do good, serve sacrificially, bring hope where life is bland or bitter.

C. Bring healing: intercede, forgive, reconcile, and restore.

D. Preserve: hold to truth and holiness; be consistent in speech, finances, and relationships.

E. Shine by reflection: stay connected to Jesus through Word, prayer, worship, and fellowship; remove clouds of sin, bitterness, and pride.

F. Let good works point upward: aim for the Father's glory, not personal applause.

G. Evangelism and deliverance in real life:

1. Story: the worker battling a 40-year addiction; God still delivers.
2. Be ready to pray on the spot and point people to Christ.

### KEY TAKEAWAY:

**In a world that is always watching, Jesus calls us to be salt with real savor and light that truly shines, so that our visible good works lead people to glorify our Father in heaven.**

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. Where is my "salt" adding flavor, healing, and preservation, and where has it lost savor?
2. What "clouds" are dimming my light, and how will I remove them this week?
3. Which Beatitude do I most need to cultivate right now?
4. What good work can I do this week that will clearly point people to the Father?
5. Who is watching my life, and what are they learning about Jesus from me?

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES FOR STUDY:

Matthew 5:1-16

Acts 5:1–11

Psalm 30:5

Philippians 2:15

2 Corinthians 3:18

John 8:12