

THE PARABLE THIS WEEK: MATTHEW 5:13-17 (ESV)

- This parable will be very familiar to us.
- We will put this passage in the overall context of **Matthew 5**. Many of us like to skip right to the salt & light analogy.
- “*The Sermon on the Mount*.” Jesus sets up a new way of living that is so different than the worlds.

1. NOTICE WHAT THE PEOPLE/FOLLOWERS OF JESUS ARE BECOMING:

- **Salvation.**
- We are filled with the Holy Spirit! “The Poor in Spirit” = humbled — “*I am a sinner.*”
- Repentance = we mourn over what we have done.
- **Spirit-filled change.**
- Meekness = strength and purpose under control. The control of who?
- Hunger for righteousness = an unnatural, supernatural desire to serve the Lord.
- Merciful = I need it and I give it. We are grace givers in our relationship with others.
- A pure heart in my motives; a sense of innocence.
- Peacemakers; reconcilers.

Matthew 5:1-16 (ESV) ¹Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them. He said: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

THE LAST ONE: PERSECUTION IS THE RESULT OF FOLLOWING CHRIST AND THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF PERSECUTIONS.

Matthew 5:10-12 (ESV) ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2. NOW TO THE FAMILIAR PASSAGE: SALT & LIGHT (Matthew 5:13-16 ESV)

- Notice that these kinds of people are amazingly different.
- Some of us think that if we were like this that we would be loved.
- Sometimes this leads to open doors, but we forget that some hate the light.
- **John 3:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:10-14 ESV.**

3. JESUS’ DESIRE FOR HIS DISCIPLES: SALT AND LIGHT

- We are called to be **SALT**.
 - Brings flavor, preserves, and creates a thirst for more.
- We are called to be **LIGHT**.
 - Illuminates, represents the truth vs. darkness/lies.

- Illuminates not only our own steps but also those of others—lights up the whole room.
- A city (*a collection of lights*).

4. THE BOTTOM LINE:

- Jesus is saying we are to be different through our good deeds and behaviors.
- We have a different purpose: to bring glory to God (see **Matthew 5:16**).
- We will need to be steadfast, faithful, and courageous.
- So many are not dealing with persecution **because...**
 - They don't look differently. They were not taught they were supposed to look differently.
 - They go "*underground*." They try to fit in with the culture.
 - They get intentionally offensive in the wrong ways.

John 17:14–19 ¹⁴*I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.* ¹⁵*My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.* ¹⁶*They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.* ¹⁷*Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.* ¹⁸*As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.* ¹⁹*For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.*

John 12:42–43 ⁴²*Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue;* ⁴³*for they loved human praise more than praise from God.*

WHAT SHOULD LIVING DIFFERENTLY LOOK LIKE?

1. Live out a winsome, righteously loving life.
2. Look for opportunities to bring glory to Jesus.
3. When you speak, humbly share your faith.
4. When you share the truth, make sure they know you love them even though you disagree.
5. Put parameters around your life and family—behaviors and priorities that make you different.

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

Passages to consider: **Matthew 5:1-20 (ESV)**

1. What passage or principle from the sermon is God using to strengthen your understanding of who He is and your relationship with Him?
2. Read **Matthew 5:1-20 (ESV)**. Who is Jesus talking to? What does He want His people to understand?
3. What thought process is Jesus challenging with His teaching?
4. What belief or behavior in your life is being challenged?
5. How will you respond to what God is showing you about Himself and you?

Passage to prepare for next week: **Luke 10:29-47 (ESV)**