

## Walking with Jesus through the Eyes of Matthew

### “Salt and Light”

Matthew 5:13-16

*God Commands Me in His Word – Love Him with All my Heart, My Soul, My Mind  
- and to Love One Another as Myself*

**Introduction:** This morning our text brings us to an encouragement, a challenge, and a commitment.

- A. Early in Jesus ministry after calling His disciples He encourages them that their life has changed.
  - 1. They used to be fisherman (nothing wrong with that) Tax collectors (well maybe there is something wrong with that) but any way they are not who they used to be there lives had changed when they followed Jesus!
    - And in the text this morning they have from having little or negative influence to impacting lives for the glory of God.
    - They are now ambassadors for God!

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

= Following Jesus changes who we are and gives us purpose and that purpose is to bring glory to the Father Jesus tells them that they are now the salt and that they are light.

= This is big and it is big for us as followers of Christ: We are salt and light are both powerful things that not only change what we do but it is God using are lives to change other lives for God’s glory!

**Transition:** Our text this morning is first an encouragement!

## I. **Jesus Encourages His Disciples** verse 13-14

A. I love the way that Jesus doesn't say you can be but makes a declarative statement "You Are"!

1. Jesus does not say when you grow up you will be or if you get enough education you will be.
- Wow how encouraging is that Jesus declares that you are the salt of the earth and the light world! (We will get back to that in a moment but I want to see that God's Word will encourage us simply by telling us who we are!

= We are called God's children...

= We are called Jesus' friend...

= We are called the Temple of the Holy Spirit...

= We are called new creatures...

= We are called chosen...

= We are called redeemed...

= We are called sealed by the Holy Spirit of God...

= We are called free!!!!!!!

- This list goes on and on we are the adopted sons and daughters of Almighty God and as His children we have purpose and with purpose we should be encouraged!

B. Listen there are going to be times in your life as a believer where things are not going to so good.

- But remember you are the child of the King! Jesus declares who we are and no one else!
  1. Remember God knows exactly where you are and what's going on!
  2. This world is not our best life our best life is to come!
    - “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way where I am going.” 5 Thomas \*said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” 6 Jesus \*said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. John 14:1-6
- Be encouraged we do not declare ourselves or earn ourselves any position with God !!!!!!!!!!!

**Transition: Now in this text of encouragement lies a challenge!**

- A. The challenge is to expose who you are (Salt and Light) so that the Father will receive glory!
  - II. **Jesus Challenges His Disciples** verse 13-14
    - A. Even though you are salt if you are not salty you will just be ignored, even though you are light if you hide the light then you will have no affect!
      1. Let me just say this about salt: Why did Jesus not say that we were gold or silver?
        - Why didn't He compare us to something more valuable than salt?
- = Church at the time salt was the most important resource available for the people!

- It was used for lots of things and was very effective: To enhance the flavor of food of course but it was used for preserving food and medicine a house in these days without salt would be in trouble.
- So when Jesus told His disciples that they were the salt of the earth He was telling them that make a difference for the Kingdom of God through Christ they had been given purpose!
- 2. But if salt does not do what it's supposed to do then it is ignored as if it is not even there.
- Are we salty enough for God?
- How much do we salt our conversations with God's truth's or have we found it easier to just let it go not stir up any waves?
- How much are we salting our neighborhoods and our families with the love of Christ?

= Because we are salt the question is are we salty if we are not salty then we are ignored and God's amazing character and grace are ignored.

#### B. Jesus challenges His disciples to light the world with good works!

1. Let me say something that you have no doubt heard before but bears repeating there is no such thing as darkness!
- This is what I mean by that: darkness can never over take light because darkness can't exist if there is light!

= When you walk into a room at night you we say here in the south we cut the light on right?

- Then when we leave the room we cut the dark on, nope we turn the light off!
- There can only be darkness if light is not around if a light is covered up then it is not noticed but even the very smallest light in a dark place can be seen! And cannot be ignored

- Jesus challenged His disciples: You are the light of the world so shine!
  - Shine in such a way that folks can see the glory of God in your life!
  - 2. This is a very old illustration but it is a good one if your neighbors and your coworkers or fellow students were the jury could they see enough evidence in your life to find you guilty of being a believer in Jesus Christ!
  - Is the way we are living our lives salting and illuminating the glory of a Holy God or are we ignored because we really are not having any effect on the people around us for His glory?

**Transition:** Now Jesus closes this section of text by ordering commitment, commitment to live and work in such a way that God is seen and glorified!

### III. Jesus Seeks Commitment from His Disciples verse 16

- A. Jesus says go to work, get busy in such a way that God is glorified with your life!
  - 1. Jesus is seeking commitment from His disciples!
    - It is a beautiful thing to see a soul come to Christ but if there is an even more beautiful thing it is seeing that soul learn more about Christ through the teaching and the preach of His Word!
- B. Jesus encourages them that they are the light of the world the salt of the earth difference makers (Isn't that what we have always wanted)
  - 1. But Jesus says if you cover your light or your salt has no flavor that you will just get trampled underfoot.
    - Is that not what is happening in the world we live in!
  - 2. We have been silent covering our light and not being salty for so long now that world pays us little attention.
    - Truth is the world sees very little difference in the believer and the world because we hide our light thinking it could cost us something!

3. You see church if we make a commitment to serve Christ no matter what things in and around your life are going to change!
  - You may lose a friend or two or maybe all of them
  - You may lose popularity with your peers, you may even lose your job!

= We say all the time that we want to be followers of Jesus, we want to walk in His steps, but we hide our light under a basket afraid of what others may think!

**Closing:** Jesus said you are the salt of the world: something doesn't become salt because it's salty it is salty because it is salt!

- A. You can believe you are the salt of the earth that is not a question Jesus declare it but the question is your Christianity flavoring those around you, is it healing those around you, and is affecting the world that you live in or is it being trampled underfoot.
- B. You are the light of the world again Jesus declared it nothing can separate you from the love of Christ sealed by the Holy Spirit of God but how bright of a light are we.
  - What should a Christian life look like it should be salt and light!
  - We should be making a difference!
  - We should be affecting things!

= Somehow the Christian life has morphed into something that is about what can I get or I got mine leave me alone but Jesus call us salt and light these are things that affect others

- I hope you are encouraged this morning to realize that you are a child of God and you can have an amazing effect on everyone that you come in contact with!