

Matthew: The Life & Teaching of Jesus the Messiah

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

Key Idea: *The world is changed for the good when Christ's disciples are most unlike the world. The Sermon on the Mount is built on the assumption that Christians are different, and it issues a call to us to be different.*

Lesson 20
Matt. 5:13-16
Salt & Light (3-8-26)

I. HOW DOES SALT & LIGHT RELATE TO THE BEATITUDES?

- A. An amazing thought: How can the m_____ —whom Jesus promises opposition—
i_____ the world?
- B. Note how there is a close proximity between p_____ & e_____
- C. Can there be a cease fire between the Church and the world? _____

II. THERE'S A VITAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN CHRISTIANS & THE WORLD

- A. Disciples are influential only so long as they remain d_____ from the w_____
1. Check out the grammar:
- Jesus sets forth an affirmation and a c_____.
 - Note the emphatic use of the 2nd person pronoun: Y_____ and y_____
- Implication:* Jesus assumes genuine h_____ r_____
2. Consider the assumption behind the analogies:
- The world's continual tendency is to fall into d_____ Why?
Because it is a d_____ p_____.
 - The irony of "enlightenment": _____

III. OUR CALL AS DISCIPLES IS 2 ARREST DECAY AND DISPEL DARKNESS

- A. Believers are the Salt of the earth (v.13)
1. Salt is an apt metaphor:
- What is salt good for? p_____ and f_____
 - When is "salt" tasteless? _____
 - What happens to useless salts? _____
2. How do the meek arrest a decaying, putrefying world?
- Short answer: _____
 - What other institutions has God ordained to restrain evil? How good are they?

 - Like rubbing salt into a w_____, believers will also s_____
- B. Believers are the light of the world (v.14-16)
1. Light as m_____ for our role in a sin darkened world: Why?
- The world needs an e_____ light source.
 - Like most of what we see on earth is l_____ by the sun, so Jesus' disciples exude a
r_____ light—His own (John 8:12; 9:5; cf. Eph. 5:8)

2. How do the meek enlighten a Mordorian world?

- What with? _____
- By what standard? _____ (5:17f)
- Note that the world cannot help but see Christ's disciples s_____ (v. 16). This is genuine e_____ --not marketing, prosperity gospel, or psycho-babble.
- How extensive will the Church's influence be? G_____: Wherever Christ's disciples g_____ (v.16). This is cause for o_____ and Gospel c_____ .

III. WHEN SALT HAS LOST ITS SAVOR: HOW IS IT CORRUPTED?

- A. So what does salt do? It s_____ p _____ and p_____
- B. Salt's effectiveness depends on its d_____ from counterfeits.
1. True salt never c_____ to be salt—the problem is one of c_____
 2. The characteristics of “salty” disciples is set forth by _____
- C. In what ways can our witness and influence become c_____?
1. Hypocritical or w_____ l_____.
 2. Syncretistic thinking or a_____ to the spirit of the age.
 - a. Syncretism is _____
 - b. Some of the Devil's favorite Techniques:
 - (1) Facts vs. Faith: _____
 - (2) Pandering after “relevance”: _____
 - (3) “All truth is God's Truth”: _____
 - (4) The Bible plus _____
 3. Abject i_____ : You're a lazy b_____ and don't care _____
- D. What is the antidote to contamination? _____

IV. WHAT DOES LIGHT DO? HOW IS IT DIMMED?

- A. What does light do? It d_____ d_____ ; makes reality c_____.
- B. Light's effectiveness depends upon it being in such a p_____ that it can be s_____.
1. Giving light is not an o_____ (see John 9:5; I John 1:7)
 2. The question is h_____ i_____ is your light?
- C. In what ways can our witness and influence become d_____?
1. Compartmentalization: _____
 - a. pietism : _____
 - b. pluralism: _____
 2. Timidity: _____
 3. Antidote: The people of God _____

V. BUT THIS CITY'S LIGHT CANNOT BE PUT OUT. (v.16)

- A. Notice who the Light is: _____ (Jn 8:12; Lk 2:32; Is 42:6)
- B. Notice what a city set on a hill was like in Bible times:

- C. Why will gospel salt and light have their effect? _____ (Mt 16:13-19)
_____ (Is 2:2-4) _____ (Ps 46:1-6)