

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount  
Matthew 5-7

**Christ's Followers and the World**  
**Matthew 5:13-16**

# Matthew 5:13-16

**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. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. 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.**

# Purpose, Mission, and Witness

- Purpose matters greatly for Christ Followers
- Mission is about what we do
- Witness is about who we are
- Christ brought up these issues much sooner in the Sermon than we would expect

# Church Growth Pyramid



# We would expect to see ...

- **Beatitudes – teaching faith (5:3-10)**
- **Morality and religious activities (5:21-6:24)**
- **Attitudes of life: worry, judging, praying (6:25-7:12)**
- **Building you life on Christ (7:13-27)**
- **Then: Salt and Light and Witness (5:11-20)**

# Instead we see...

- **First, The Beatitudes – Be Happy Attitudes**
- **Second, The Christian and the World – purpose, duties, expectations, witness**
- **Third, everything else: morality, prayer, priorities, giving, worry, judging, building our life.**
- **Until we know God's purpose in saving us we cannot understand the Christian life.**

# 1. We are the salt of the earth

- Salt was essential for life: preservative, flavor, disinfectant
- “Earth” – *ge* in Greek, means this planet.
- The Church preserves society
- The Church adds flavor and joy to life
- The Church heals the sicknesses of society

# Salt...

- Comes from the earth
- Returns to the earth to fulfill its purpose
- We come from society and must return to society as servants of Christ to fulfill our mission
- “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world” (James 1:27 ESV)

## 2. We are the light of the world

- Light is other-worldly and comes from the sun
- The word *kosmos* is used for the “world” – means the “world system”
- We must proclaim the truth of God as we confront false world beliefs and values.

# This World (*Kosmos*)

- **Fallen : “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world” (1 John 2:15-16)**

# This World (*Kosmos*)

- **As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.(Eph. 2:1-4).**

# The Meaning of Life

- **Meaning, purpose, significance, value, duty**
- **Ancient Greek: Highest Good, Cynicism, Hedonism, Stoicism**
- **Enlightenment: Liberalism, Kantianism**
- **Secular views: Nihilism, Utilitarianism, Pragmatism, Existentialism, Absurdism, Materialism**
- **Westminster Catechism: What is the chief end of man?  
Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.**

# The Bible says:

- **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’” (Matt 22:37-39).**
- **“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).**

# The Bible says:

- Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life" (John 8:12)
- "...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me" (Acts 26:18)

# 3. We are Witnesses

- **“That they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matt 5:16)**
- **A witness has a personal experience**
- **“We bear witness to what we have seen” (John 3:11).**
- **“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Rom. 8:15)**

# The end result matters

- We are to “make disciples,” not merely do good works or just preach.
- “I have become all things to all men so that by all means I might save some” (1 Cor. 9:22)

# Three things on your purpose:

- Be of practical help to someone in the name of Christ.
- Preach and share the gospel, the biblical truth and Christian perspective.
- The end result matters – that people may trust in Christ and be changed.