

Week 3 – Sermon on the Mount

“A People of Influence”

Matthew 5:13-20

I. Be Salt (v. 13)

- a. General observations of these metaphors:
 - i. Context/connection with Beatitudes
 - ii. Both emphatic: “You [and only you!] are...”
 - iii. Both follow same pattern: Affirmation + condition upon which the affirmation depends
 - iv. Both imply distinction

- b. In that day salt was used to season, but also to _____; to prevent rotteness and _____.

- c. The world cannot stop itself from going _____. (Romans 1!)
Christians are placed by God in the world to hinder this process, to act as a moral _____ by preserving what is good and right.

- d. “if the salt has become tasteless” = mixed with something else, diluted,

- e. In order to purify, salt must be _____.

II. Be Light (vv. 14-16)

- a. The function of light: to illumine the _____ (John 3:19, Col. 1:13, Eph. 5:8)

- b. In order to illumine the darkness, light must _____.

- c. Light (in this context) = _____

III. **Be Righteous** (vv. 17-20)

- a. Psalm 1:1, 2 “How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit at the feet of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.”
 - i. For Jesus’ audience, blessedness was linked to loving and obeying the law of God
 - ii. Jesus celebrates blessedness without any reference to God’s law (Matt. 5:3-12)
 - iii. What gives????

- b. The big question: Was Jesus setting Himself up as an authority over against the Old Testament? His answer: Absolutely _____!!!!

- c. How does Jesus FULFILL the Old Testament?
 - i. He fulfills the moral law of God by complete obedience to it and by bearing the punishment for our breaking of it
 - ii. He fulfills the ceremonial law of God by being the once-and-for-all BETTER sacrifice for sin (the entire book of Hebrews!)
 - iii. If you see the entire Old Testament as a redemption story of which every passage points to a coming Savior, it’s very easy to understand why Jesus uses the word “fulfill” and “accomplish” to explain the relationship between the Old Testament and life in His kingdom.

- d. Two key passages for understanding verse 20:
 - i. Jeremiah 31:33
 - ii. Ezekiel 36:27

- e. The Sermon on the Mount cries to us: GET A _____
_____!!!!!!!

Time to MARINATE...

- 1) How are you specifically challenged by the metaphors of salt and light?
- 2) Chances are your unbelieving friends and family members are seeking to make a positive influence in the world. How are your good works distinct from theirs?
- 3) What light does verse 20 (and really the entire sermon so far) shed on the idea that a person can be saved without being changed?