

## “LIVING AS JESUS INTENDED – PT. 2: BEING SALT & LIGHT” MATT. 5:13-16

**INTRO:** Sermon on the Mount (Mt. Sinai of the NT) OT – God’s design for holy living; NT – God’s direction through Jesus- “fulfillment of all the Law”.

Here we understand how Jesus intends for us to live:

1<sup>st</sup> – beatitudes (v. 3-12): deals with our hearts, motives, relationships with God & man

2<sup>nd</sup> – similitudes: “likeness in character; resemblances” (v. 13-16): effect on others relationally because of His work in us.

\*When we allow God to change us inwardly by His Spirit, then we act like Him outwardly in this world.

- Jesus takes 2 physical objects known to men (salt & light) and connects a spiritual truth to it.

### **I. INWARD WORKING OF GODLY CHARACTER: SALT(V. 13)**

#### **A. CHARACTERISTICS OF SALT: “you are the salt of the earth” ...**

- sodium chloride: (NaCl) many purposes

1) **seasoning element** (flavor to foods)

- the Christian is meant to add a savor to life by our words/ actions revealing who Jesus is...creating a thirst in others for God. *How?*

- God shakes us out (saltshaker – little here, little there), not dumps us in one place: (spread out = effective...Levites dispersed among the people to teach them God’s ways)

- too much salt together not only spoils the taste, but it’s **Unhealthy**: high blood pressure, muscle cramps, dizziness, neurological problems, heartburn, ulcers, even death!....

\*\*getting together is a good thing (needful thing); too much can be a dangerous thing - unhealthy (not flavoring the world interacting, Christian bubbles,...not what God intended.)

2) **preserving element** (from putrefaction of bacterias : “salting your foods” meats/no fridge) saving from destruction.

- the Christian is a preserving element (morals/ character of God revealed in a corrupt world) delaying God’s destruction to come on the earth. (**Noah** -Gen. 6:11 – world corrupt, wicked...he was preserving...saving element for all humanity)

**2 Thes. 2:6-8** (Day of the Lord & antichrist revealed) *And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains **will do so until He is taken out of the way**. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*

3) **disinfectant** (salt in wounds) stings but cleanses, fights harmful bacteria, prevents infection.

- The Christian is a disinfectant to others for the wounds from sin. (**i.e. today – wounded by sin**)

**Col. 4:6** *Let your speech always be with **grace, seasoned with salt**, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

4) **unit of exchange** ( monetary exchange rate... value, useful, “worth your salt”)

- The Christian is a value to this world, worthy element, useful in bringing men to God (though they don’t recognize it).

*Heb. 11:38* (Godly people martyred) “...of whom the world was not worthy...”

#### **B. CHRIST’S WORD TO HIS DISCIPLES:**

**1. About Losing flavor** = “to become insipid, passive, ineffective, tasteless”

\*How does salt loose flavor?

1. contamination with other earthy minerals causes a weakness in flavor, bland & unpleasant taste.

2. overexposure to sun & rain. Looks like salt, still has sparkle, but no effectiveness.

\* We lose our effectiveness as God's "salt" when we are "earthy" (worldly) (live like them, act like them, taking on their nature)...still have the "look", but lost the power. We must remain connected to the rock (JESUS) to be effective.

**2. About Lacking worth and purpose: "good for nothing..."**

- flavorless salt has no recourse, no value, no purpose. No good in the home, field, yard, (even dunghill – Lk. 14:35)... throw it out the back door onto the street, trampled down.

- salt thrown out actually destroys all fertility where it is thrown (barren, unfruitful).

\* Jesus tells His disciples that they have a vital role in relationship with others. Godly character effects others...shows them how Jesus changes lives.

## II. OUTWARD EFFECTIVENESS OF GODLY LIVING: LIGHT (V. 14-16)

(14) "You are the light of the world"... (*phos = luminaries: little lights*)

Jesus is the ultimate "Light of the world" (Jn. 8:12) (source of light: sun); we are His **reflection** (moon – no glory without sun)... we are His **representation** - anointed by the same Spirit of God... (candle in comparison to the forest fire)

\* *Why does He call His disciples "lights"?*

1) the disciples understood that this term was describing the righteous.

**Dan. 12:3** *Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.*

2) Purpose of light: reveals: rights/wrongs, shows us our sins, and then shows us the right path.

- Light shows us our true form, true nature (both beautiful & ugly). The Christian reveals to the world what Jesus is like, what He can do with sinners... (*not in condemnation, but in exhortation – shows the way to peace, relationship with God, promise of heaven.*)

**Phil 2:14-15** *Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*  
The Christian is meant to shine in this world, revealing Jesus, showing Jesus in every

way.

### A. NOTICEABLE – CANNOT BE HIDDEN: (14) (Video)

– Many Jewish towns were built on hills (Nazareth, Jerusalem)... 1) defense, 2) visibility (seen by all, actions not hid, open)

- The world would be watching...Disciples of Jesus were to live lives of integrity, honesty, purity/ message was cohesive with their lives.

\* when you are His, there will be a noticeable difference...fruit

### B. PURPOSEFUL – PLACED FOR GREATEST EFFECTIVENESS: (15)

- bushel = measuring cup (1 ½ gal). under it the light would be concealed, useless.

Houses: small one room, projecting stone in the wall which the lamp set. A tiny light sufficient for all to see.

\*Very reason we are illuminated was so others can see and be benefited by it. Others-oriented, not self-oriented...

\* God has called His Church to be a light. (**Acts 13:47** "I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth") The Christian life is a missional life. Christianity is meant to be shared! We are meant to be others oriented, reaching out and shining in dark places for others to see Jesus!

- God is a relational God. He has placed you in that "house" (work, family, situation) for a purpose: to show Jesus (actions, words) build relationships (not shrink back) so that others may see.

### C. INTENTIONAL – MEN TO GLORIFY THE FATHER: (16)

- “**SO** let your light so shine...” (since v. 15 is naturally true, then spiritually do this too...shine your light before men!) (radiate, to beam out in front of men)

**1 Pet. 2:9** *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

- *what are they to see?*

- “good works” = “beautiful toils” (motivated by love, integrity, grace, our whole life should exemplify the power and truth of Jesus. Always concerned for His honor)

**Eph. 2:10** *(created for good works) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

**Titus 2:7-8 (pattern of good works)** *in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.*

**Titus 3:8 (maintain good works)** *This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.*

- Our goal of good works: “men to glorify the Father”
  - o Not us to be the focus, but Him. (Pharisees – “Us” mentality; true Christianity – God’s glory alone) (Sola Dei Gratia “To God alone be praise”)

*How do men glorify the Father? Through Salvation.*

- They see Jesus in you, understand His intentions & love for them, blessed by your witness and godly character, they glorify God for His salvation. (Redemption, Transformation, Illumination)
- \*Shine by good preaching (use the gifts God has given you)...shine by good living (hear & see Jesus in you)...shine by good working (leaving beautiful marks of God’s hand in this world).

**2 Thes. 1:11-12** *Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*