

## **Matthew 5:13-16**

Begin in Matt. 4:23

Background: Jesus is going through Galilee teaching, preaching, healing, and large crowds are following him. Jesus goes and sits on a mountainside and gives the beatitudes, a very poetic, very powerful speech, (like the “I have a dream speech”)

Read 5:3-12

- Poor in spirit → \_\_\_\_\_
- Mourn → \_\_\_\_\_
- Meek → \_\_\_\_\_
- Hunger for righteousness → \_\_\_\_\_
- Merciful → \_\_\_\_\_
- Pure in heart → \_\_\_\_\_
- Peacemakers → \_\_\_\_\_
- Persecuted → \_\_\_\_\_

This is opposite of what we are taught in the world, the opposite of what is seen as something to strive for. Just look at tv, movies, magazines, and the news. You will quickly see that these things are not what the world is striving for.

### **Groups: Read & Discuss Matthew 5:1-16:**

<sup>1</sup>Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup>and he began to teach them saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. <sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. <sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

<sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand,

and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Conclusion:

So “great is your reward in heaven” but then goes straight into our work here on earth. We need to remember where we’re headed, however, we have been given a purpose here on earth.

\*Did anyone have any nuggets from their group discussion?

St. Francis of Assisi said “preach Christ constantly, and when necessary, use words”

What a great opportunity to show your friends Christ by the way you live.- but there has to be something different about you, everything stems from your relationship with Christ.

## **Salt and Light**

**Matthew 5:13-16**

### **What’s up?**

1. What happens when salt loses its saltiness?
2. Why do you think Christ uses these two brief Illustrations to describe us?
3. Who receives praise when we do good deeds?

### **So What?**

1. What do you think it means to be salt and light in a dark and decaying world?

*Challenge:* Think about your upcoming week. What chances will you have to be salt and light? What will you do with those chances?