

What is the message of your life? (Matt. 5:13-20)

Series: Lessons from the Sermon on the Mount

➤ Intro:

- **Matt. 5:13-20** Sermon on the Mount, after Beatitudes, following the blessings associated w/ persecution
- **Christians: salt, light, teach**

➤ You are the salt of the earth!

- **Matt. 5:13** salt of the earth

➤ - salt:

- What is the purpose of salt?

- **make taste better:** brings out flavor (positive)
 - **illus.: leftover corn** of the cob, salted, made taste better - say, “corn good” not “salt good”
- **preserve:** keep from spoiling without refrigeration
 - **illus.: Dad,** kid working on grandfather’s farm, go out to smoke house and get meat

- What can be done if salt loses its saltiness (savor)?

- **nothing:** throw it out (Jesus, His day, throw in street where it couldn’t harm anything else, e.g., farmland)

➤ - Christians:

- **Col. 4:6** speech, grace, like salt, make God’s word, commands, obedience, taste better (more palatable)
 - **actions / behavior** (tongue, relationships, good neighbor): attracts people to Christ, makes it easier to obey and be saved
 - **illus.: like show and tell** — show first, tell second — more apt to listen after see that we live it
 - **illus. salt on corn (above):** make God, word, commands, gospel message, more palatable (taste good)
 - **we are the salt,** makes living here better through Christ, makes His message more savory
 - **therefore, we also preserve the earth:** that some come to God and be saved

- - **Heb. 6:4-6** if we fall away, lose our saltiness (godly influence), we can’t help ourselves or anyone else
 - self, family, friends, brethren

- What do Christians preserve upon the earth?

- **1 Tim. 3:15** truth, God’s word (Jn. 17:17)
 - **Col. 4:6**
 - therefore, all things good, spiritual
 - therefore, perhaps the physical earth itself - e.g., days of Noah

- **You are the light of the world! — illus. Mount of Beatitudes**
 - **Matt. 5:14-16** light of the world — **like city can't hide, like lamp on lampstand**
- **- light:**
 - **What is light?** (HowStuffWorks.com)
 - **it's a particle or wave**
 - ancient Greeks believed light was made up of particles (particle theory, photons)
 - Einstein theorized light was made up of a stream of energy packets called photons
 - modern physicists believe that light can behave as both a particle and a wave
 - **a beam of light radiates outward**
 - **illus.: city on hill**, seen from all sides, not hid from any perspective (Matt. 5:14)
 - **illus.: lamp on lampstand** so that everything around it illuminated (Matt. 5:15)
 - **illus.: sun**, light emanates every direction from the sun
 - **Matt. 13:43** (Jesus, parable of the tares) “Then the **righteous will shine forth as the SUN** in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”
 - **illus.: lighthouse that illuminates 360°** (pict)
- **- Christians — purpose of spiritual light:**
 - **light the path to God (Jesus):**
 - **Jn. 8:12; 12:46** we're light by following Jesus, believing Him, not remain in darkness
 - **Jn. 1:4** because Jesus is Light
 - **Jn. 14:6** Jesus is the way, the truth, the life
- **- Acts 13:47** Paul, we are lights when we share the gospel with others — character, conduct, example, in word and deed
 - **Ps. 119:105** (David) Your **word** is a **lamp** to my feet and a **light** to my path.
 - **illus.: Scott scare Jerry Flatt**, came out of bathroom, couldn't see, swung — **without light, not know truth, Scott play joke**
 - **illus.: boy, got up in middle of night**, slept in living room, dark, couldn't find light switch or way out of room — **without light not know way to go**
- **- expose sin (darkness):**
 - **Eph. 5:7-14** expose darkness by not participating in evil
 - **illus.: when you come out of the bathroom**, turn on the hall light if Scott Flatt is around — **expose darkness, see Scott**
 - **illus.: if you're sleeping in a unfamiliar place**, know where the light switch is or use a night light — **expose darkness, see how to get around**
 - **result: men see good works and glorify God**
 - **Matt. 5:16**
- **Your life is a message! — you teach others in everything you do**
 - **Matt. 5:17-20** your life teaches something — **as Christian you. . . .**
 - can't be like the religious hypocrites of Jesus' day
 - harsh punishment for teach sin through your life
 - **As a faithful Christian, you are exposing darkness and lighting the path to God (eternal life)?**
 - **illus.: Ye Are The Light Of The World** (#453)

➤ **What is the message of your life? — summary / inv.**

- **As a faithful Christian**, you reveal darkness and light the path to God (eternal life) — **purpose in life**
 - yes, if you are following Jesus (Jn. 8:12)
- As a faithful Christian you spread darkness and hide the path to God (eternal life)
 - no, if you are not following Jesus (Jn. 8:12)
- **inv.: saying:** without physical light you'll die physically / without spiritual light you'll die spiritually
 - **Rev. 22:1-5** heaven, neither night nor sun, Lord illumine us for eternity
 - become light today, live in the city of light for eternity