

Morning Sermon March 8, 2020

*“You are Salt, Stay Salty!” Matthew 5:13*

<sup>13</sup> **“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. Matthew 5:13 (NKJV)**

*If I were to sum up what we have learned in the past few weeks I would say Jesus’ Beatitudes describe at least two things: Christian conversion and Christian Character in the verses we should study in the next couple weeks, Matthew 5:13-16, we learn how such Christian Character will (should) impact and influence an ungodly world!*

I. *What does Jesus mean when He calls us the salt of the earth?*

1. *Salt is something different from the earth, in the Beatitudes Jesus has called us to this difference –*

A. *An ungodly world (the earth) tells us we must self-confident, self-assured, self-actualizing, Jesus says -*

<sup>3</sup> **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, ... Matthew 5:3 (NKJV)**

B. *An ungodly world (the earth) tells us, “party-hearty, go for the gusto, live it up ... Jesus says –*

<sup>4</sup> **Blessed are those who mourn, Matthew 5:4 (NKJV)**

C. *An ungodly world (the earth) tells us, “to look out for #1, that nice guys finish last, that if you want to get ahead you need to push the little people out of the way ... but Jesus says –*

<sup>5</sup> **Blessed are the meek, ... Matthew 5:5 (NKJV)**

D. *An ungodly world (the earth) tells us, that happiness is in sin, in breaking the rules, it says with Satan when tempting, “you shall not surely die” ... but Jesus says –*

<sup>6</sup> **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, ... Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)**

E. *An ungodly world (the earth) tells us, be the uber man, stomp on the weak, but Jesus says –*

<sup>7</sup> **Blessed are the merciful, Matthew 5:7 (NKJV)**

F. *An ungodly world (the earth) tells us, sincerity is the thing, if you can fake it, you have it made... but Jesus says –*

<sup>8</sup> **Blessed are the pure in heart, ... Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)**

G. *An ungodly world (the earth) tells us, peace, peace when there is no peace, but Jesus says ... <sup>9</sup> **Blessed are the peacemakers, Matthew 5:9 (NKJV)***

H. *An ungodly world (the earth) will persecute us for righteousness sake, but Jesus says ...*

<sup>10</sup> **Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:10–12 (NKJV)**

*What I am saying is the essence of saltiness is what Jesus in the Beatitudes is calling “Blessed!” The very things that make God love us, are the same things that would make an ungodly world hate us!*

*“The qualities valued in the beatitudes and the comparison with the prophets in verse :12 offer the starting points for understanding the imagery of salt.”*

*John Nolland*

2. *I would argue committed, whole-hearted, real Christianity, love for God and Christ is the essence of saltiness. When and to the degree a person starts loving the world more than Christ / God this person is losing saltiness –*

<sup>15</sup> **Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)**

II. As “salt” we have God-given purposes in this world, to slow its corruption, to add God’s different flavor, if we lose these purposes, or our ability to fulfill them we are as Christ says –  
... good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. Matthew 5:13 (NKJV)

**5:13 salt.** “The primary value of salt was not as a flavoring but as a preservative. Disciples are to hinder the world’s corruption. ...”

R. C. Sproul - Reformation Study Bible

1. We are different than the world, a corrupt world, and that is a good thing, not only for us but for the world!
2. Yet, the world does not count this “difference” good or beneficial hence the persecution mentioned in verses :10-12.
3. Persecution from the world would normally tend to un-salt our saltiness, that is why Jesus here is encouraging us not to lose our salty flavor!

III. How can we keep our saltiness?

1. By realizing we have a tendency to lose it –

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above. Robert Robinson

- A. We see this in the tendency of denominations –
- B. Too often in individual Christians and families -

2. By realizing persecution is because of it –

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:10–12 (NKJV)

- A. Notice Jesus connects a DOUBLE BLESSING to our being persecuted for righteousness and His sake!
- B. If we are persecuted because of our saltiness = Christ-likeness / righteousness, Christ emphasizes that we should rejoice, why?
  - Because it is right
  - Because it is difficult
  - Because rejoicing even in persecution shows we value our saltiness / Christ-like character above ease, just like the committed athlete who says “no pain, no gain” –

<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup> And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. <sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (NKJV)

3. By realizing our VALUE to Christ, His mission, the lost, is because of it, without it we are -  
... good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. Matthew 5:13 (NKJV)

Opposite - We are good for something if we are salty, Christ-like, righteous:

- We tend to keep an ungodly world from going totally crazy!
- This allows for the continued preaching and presentation of the Gospel – Light –

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)

4. By commitment; by God’s Word and prayer –

<sup>12</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

*Arnold Brevick*