

# Matthew 5:13-16

Pastor Matt Pierson

March 13, 2022



## SERMON NOTES

### Matthew

The King and His Kingdom

### Matthew 5:13-16

Kingdom Living

*"I can think of no other edifice constructed by man as altruistic as a lighthouse. They were built only to serve."*

- George Bernard Shaw

*"If the beatitudes describe the essential character of the disciples of Jesus, the salt and light metaphors indicate their influence for good in the world. Yet the very notion that Christians can exert a healthy influence in the world should bring us up with a start. What possible influence could the people described in the beatitudes exert in this hard, tough world? What lasting good can the poor and the meek do, the mourners and the merciful, and those who try to make peace not war? Would they not simply be overwhelmed by the floodtide of evil? What can they accomplish whose only passion is an appetite for righteousness, and whose only weapon is purity of heart? Are not such people too feeble to achieve anything, especially if they are a small minority in the world? It is evident that Jesus did not share this skepticism. Rather the reverse."*

- John Stott, *The Bible Speaks Today*



Top photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/valecreek/37607922086/>

Bottom photo: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/jeff\\_phillips/1483636261/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/jeff_phillips/1483636261/)

**Matthew 5:13-16**

- 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.”
- 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”
- 5:15 “Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.”
- 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

*“Nothing is more useful than salt and sunshine.”*

- Pliny, 1st Century Roman Naturalist

**Uses for Salt**

1. Flavor enhancer
2. Preservative
3. Purifier

**Uses for Light**

1. Illumination
2. Health & growth
3. Biblical symbol for truth

**Matthew 5:13-16**

Kingdom Living

1. **Kingdom Identity** is given by the King
2. **Kingdom Calling**: we are called to live a distinctly different life.
3. **Kingdom Living** points back to the King

**In God’s Economy:**

- Provision always precedes obligation
- Grace precedes works
- Indicative precedes imperative
- Kingdom Identity precedes Kingdom Activity
- Being precedes doing

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

*“In the New Covenant, Jesus commands His disciples only after He has blessed them with holy significance.”*

- Frederick Dale Bruner, *The Christbook*

*“There is to be something about the way Christians ‘are,’ about the way they live together and talk about each other, and about the way they relate to the not always friendly surrounding world that is meant to catch the world’s attention, that is to cause people to ask, ‘What kind of people are these? Who are these people?’”*

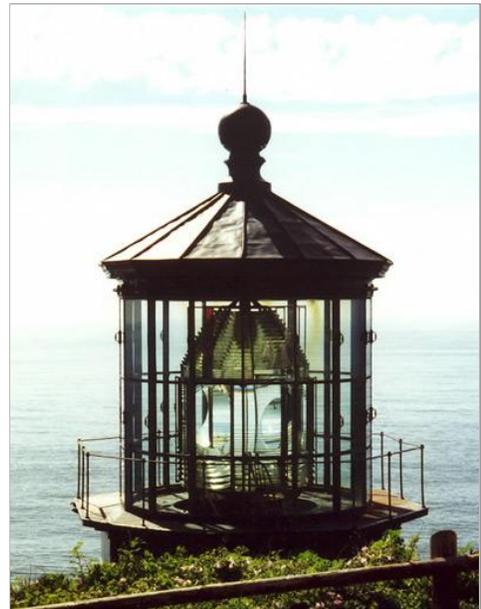
- Frederick Dale Bruner, *The Christbook*

*“Surely, if words mean anything, we are meant to learn from these two figures that there must be something marked, distinct, and peculiar about our character if we are true Christians... Salt and light evidently imply peculiarity both of heart and life, of faith and practice... We must dare to be singular and unlike the world...”*

- J.C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on the Gospel of Matthew*

*“You are the sun shining down on everyone  
Light of the world giving light to everything I see  
Beauty so brilliant I can hardly take it in  
And everywhere you are is warmth and light  
And I am the moon with no light of my own  
Still you have made me to shine  
And as I glow in this cold dark night  
I know I cannot be a light unless I turn my face to you.”*

- Sara Groves & Matthew Bronleewe, “You Are The Sun”



*“This is how we can repay such blessings, when our lives change and we come to know God, to praise and bear witness to His great wonders before every nation under heaven.”*

- St. Patrick

Photo info: The original uploader was [Elf](#) at [English Wikipedia](#). - Transferred from [en.wikipedia](#) to Commons by [Werewombat](#).  
CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3563184>

*“So it is the light they will praise, not the lamp which bears it; it is our Father in heaven whom they will glorify, not the children He has begotten and who exhibit a certain family likeness. Even those who revile us may not be able to help glorifying God for the very righteousness on account of which they persecute us.”*

- John Stott, *The Bible Speaks Today*