



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Sermon on the Mount (Part-II)

Wednesdays
8-9 PM

SALT & LIGHT and the LAW(Matthew 5:13-20)

God's Provision for a decaying and dark world (13-16): What are some innate qualities of salt and light? Why did Jesus use the metaphor of salt and light? Why does this world need salt and light? Has the need for salt and light in this world increased or diminished over the years? How can we be effective as salt and light in this world? What is the source of our saltiness and light? How does this relate to faith + works? What must be our goal of being salt & light?

Christ & the Law & the Christian (17-20): What is "the law"? What did Jesus oppose (the law, the interpretation of law, the application of law)? Why was Jesus seen as a threat by Jews? Why was Jesus critical of scribes and Pharisees? How did Jesus fulfill the law? How can we say that Jesus had respect for the law? How can we do better than Pharisees and scribes? Why are we tempted to be more like Pharisees & Sadducees ... any examples? What is the danger of being like Pharisees and Scribes? What should be our attitude to the Scriptures? What is the promised blessing?

8.04.21

Salt & Light, 5:13-16

¹³ **Ye are the salt of the earth:** but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. ¹⁴ **Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Innate qualities of salt & light

Salt

- Preserves quality and extends life
- Adds flavor/taste
- Creates Thirst
- Generally invisible upon use (like salt dissolved in food)

(known as white gold in middle ages)

Light

- Dispels darkness
- Exposes errors and flaws
- Visible

Similar to parables, Jesus uses metaphors of salt and light as it's value is easily understood

While we have advanced in many ways, the need for spiritual salt & light has not diminished

How can we be effective as salt & light?

- First, we need to **possess** salt & light in us through the gift of salvation & **continuous filling** of the Holy Spirit; we cannot share what we don't possess.

HOW

- **Words** (witness, encouragement, challenge)
- **Works** (good works, motivated by love for God and people)
- **Life** (blameless testimony that reflects Christ and attracts people)

WHERE

Not just to the outside world, but also within our inner circle of family and church.

Faith without works is dead ... works must follow true faith

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” (James 2:26)

We cannot be **secret Christians** (invisible to the world)

or **blended Christians** (look & act similar to the world)

- A **secret life** cultivated with the Lord (through regular prayer life and meditation of the Word) should **manifest itself** in our good works that is seen, profitable to others, and **glorifies God**.
- Moses face shined after meeting God (Exodus 34:29-35)

Source of Salt and Light, and ultimate Goal

Source: Lord Jesus Christ

- We must abide in Him (He is the vine, we are the branches)
- We must display His light (He is the light of the world, John 8:12)
 - We cannot do it on our own (Acts 1:4, 8)
- The quality of our saltiness and light depends on the quality of our relationship with the Lord. We cannot impact the world if we are living a sinful life, in darkness and without salt. A burning & shining light, **John 5:35**, burning always, **Exodus 27:20**

Goal

Glorify your Father which is in Heaven (16)

Not personal glory/attention/recognition

Salt & Light, available for less than one dollar!



Morton Salt, Iodized, 26 Ounce

★★★★★ ~ 6,177

\$0⁹⁹ (\$0.04/Ounce)



Sponsored ⓘ

LEDVANCE 74765 LED Light Bulb, 24 Pack, Soft White, 24 Count

★★★★★ ~ 35,426

\$22⁹⁹ (\$0.96/Count)

“But God hath chosen the **foolish** things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the **weak things** of the world to confound the things which are mighty” I Corinthians 1:27

With Christ in us, we become priceless! ... Our value comes from Him!

We are
SALT and LIGHT:
A great Honor & Responsibility

Christ & the Law

Believer & the Law (5: 17-20)

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: **I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.** 18For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

19Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall **exceed *the righteousness*** of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Summary points (5:17-20)

1. Scriptures cannot be altered
2. Jesus came to fulfill the law, not to destroy it
3. Our righteousness must exceed that of Scribes and Pharisees

Jesus & the Law & the Christian (17-20):

1. What is “the law”?
2. What did Jesus oppose (the law, the interpretation of law, the application of law)? Why was Jesus critical of scribes and Pharisees? Why was Jesus seen as a threat by Jews?
3. How did Jesus fulfill the law?
4. How can we say that Jesus had respect for the law?
5. How can we do better than Pharisees and scribes? Why are we tempted to be more like Pharisees & Sadducees ... any examples? What is the danger of being like Pharisees and Scribes?
6. What should be our attitude to the Scriptures? What is the promised blessing?

The “Law” ... what is it?

Broadly speaking, refers to **Word of God** (Old Testament, Law and the prophets – Matthew 7:12, 11:33, John 1:45, Acts 13:15) or specifically, Mosaic Laws (Exodus 20-23)

- Word of God endureth for ever (I Peter 1:25, Mathew 24:35, Isaiah 40:8)
- Word of God cannot be altered (Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32; Revelation 22:18-19)
- All scriptures are relevant (II Timothy 3:16)

Jesus and the Law

What did Jesus oppose (the law, the interpretation of law, and/or the application of law)? Why was Jesus critical of scribes and Pharisees? Why was Jesus seen as a threat by Jews?

- Jesus opposed the interpretation and application of the law;
- He criticized for diluting the laws and reducing it to rituals and external behavior
- Jesus spoke with authority and was seen as a threat to the existing establishment of Jews

How did Jesus fulfill the law?

'Fulfilled' implies it was incomplete until Jesus ... **the law was merely a shadow** (Hebrews 10) ... **Jesus enlarged our understanding and completed the revelation**

- for example, sacrifice of animals substituted by sacrifice of Christ as a penalty for sins ... penalty for sins not abolished, but the sacrifice changed; Law cannot save, it can only show our failures, Romans 3:20

He fulfilled the prophecies of Old Testament through His birth, death, and resurrection

How did Jesus show respect for the law?

- By **obeying**/fulfilling the law
- By **defending** the law
- By **using** the law (for example, during temptation, at the cross, chasing away money changers at the temple)

How can we do better than Pharisees and scribes?

- Have a **regenerated heart** (Ezekiel 36:37) that gives desire and power to obey. Recognize that law cannot save us (Galatians 2:21, Romans 3:20)
- Focus on the **internal state** of our heart rather than external appearance, actions, and rituals; Seek **approval of God** rather than men (I Samuel 16:7)
- Recognize that our righteousness is like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6) and we depend on the **imputed righteousness of Christ** (II Corinthians 5:21, Romans 10:4 ... Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth)

Attraction & danger of being like Pharisees and Sadducees

Attraction

- Easier to follow rules & traditions, than obey with heart
- Pride ... we like to show-off and receive public cheers & recognition

Danger

- Fruitless, artificial, and dead life (Mathew 23:27, whitewashed tombs)
- No reward from God, if we are seeking praises of men (Mathew 6:1-6)

Our attitude to scriptures ... and the reward (19)

Do & Teach

...

you will be called great in the kingdom of Heaven



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