

Matthew 5:13-16: Remember here from last week that the Lord has shifted from "THEY" and "THOSE" to "YOU".

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for THEIRS is the Kingdom of heaven; blessed are THEY that mourn: for THEY shall be comforted; blessed are the Meek: for THEY shall inherit the earth. And so on.

Now the Lord Jesus has transitioned (in His sermon) from the character/identity of the child of God, (or from the Kingdom of God within the believer) to the POWERFUL INFLUENCE that should come forth from the life of Christ within EVERY child of God.

Last week, we learned: YE ARE the salt of the earth, now tonight, YE ARE the light of the world. Both were spoken in the "Present ~ Indicative" mood.

Christian, that means, this is WHAT you are in the world!

Those who live out the Beatitudes "ARE" the salt of the earth and the light of the world. This is who and what you are constantly!

What does it mean to be "salt" or "SALTY"? And more than that, "what does it mean to be the salt of the earth."

Salt preserves! Salt heals! Salt seasons and stimulates! Salt makes you thirsty! "But if salt loses its savour, (or saltiness) it is good for nothing but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." In the world Christian, the life of God within you has MADE YOU to be savory and salty!

Next, Ye are the light of the world! (V14-16): But hold on a minute, Jesus said that He was the Light of the world! John 8:12, 9:1-5

Beloved, we are NOT even to be compared to Jesus, who is the True Light that came into the world. We are only "reflections" of the Lord Jesus, who is that True Light. We are like the moon, called the "lesser light"; and only a reflection of the sun's light; but that being said, STILL, Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world! Consider: When you were lost and dead in your trespasses and sins, you "were darkness", but now:

Ephesians 5:8-14, Philippians 2:13-16, Daniel 12:3, John 12:35-36, Proverbs 4:18-19

You are the salt of the earth because of what GOD has done in you; and so, you are the light of the world because God has done within you; God has MADE you the light of the world! This is what you and I are in Christ!

Just as you and I are the salt of the earth, you are ALSO the light of the world; this speaks of the POWERFUL INFLUENCE that you and I are to have as children of Christ in the world!

You and I are living in the midst of the world that is full of nothing but darkness! And.....God has placed you right where you are (in the world) to shine the light of gospel truth in the midst of this dark world. *Matthew 4:12-16*

You CANNOT expect a city that is built on a hill to be hidden from sight!

And you don't light a candle and put it under a bushel; you don't cover up a burning candle, you light the candle or turn on the light and hold it up to GIVE LIGHT and to dispel the darkness! The Kingdom of God is within you!

Excuse the terminology, but when God saved you, He lit you up! You NOW give off the Light of Christ in your gospel witness and testimony! That LIGHT CANNOT BE HIDDEN!

BUT shame on us when we are not faithful witnesses for Christ in our own sphere of

influence and when those around us don't even know that we are Christians!

That's like putting your candle under a bushel!

God has put His light in you, now you are to show forth that light to "ALL THAT ARE IN THE HOUSE!"

Last: Christ gives an imperative command: Since you have the light of Christ in you: "Let your light so shine among men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven"

Do this now! Do this always! And don't do anything that is going to dim or hide the light of Christ in you! Shine Christian! SHINE! Don't camouflage your Christianity in the world Christian. Let it be seen to the honoring of your heavenly Father!

Ephesians 2:10

Everyone of us should be "transmitting" gospel light in this dark world.

2 Corinthians 4:3-7, Psalm 119:105, 130, Proverbs 6:23

Your gospel witness and Christian life should be dispelling darkness in the lives of those that know you; remember that, as ye are the salt of the earth; ye are the light of the world!

Christian, YOU should have a gospel illuminating influence in the world!

Ray Pritchard:

I'd rather see a sermon, than hear one any day;

I'd rather one would walk with me, than merely tell the way.

The eye's a better pupil, and more willing than the ear;

Fine counsel can be confusing, but an example is always clear.

The best of all preachers are the men who live their creeds.

For to see good in action is what everybody needs,

I soon can learn to do it, if you'll let me see it done.

Your tongue may too fast run, the lectures you deliver,

May be very wise and also very true, but I'd rather get my lessons,
by observing what you do.

I might misunderstand you, and the counsel that you give;

But there's no misunderstanding, in how you act and live.