

Salt and Light Part 2.

Chad Cogburn
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Summary: Happy Kingdom Citizens

Matt 5:3-12

Blessed are:

- 1. Poor in Spirit*
- 2. Mourn*
- 3. Meek*
- 4. Hunger and Thirst for righteousness*
- 5. Merciful*
- 6. Pure in heart*
- 7. Peacemakers*
- 8. Enduring persecution*

For theirs/they shall:

- 1. Is the kingdom*
- 2. Be comforted*
- 3. Inherit the earth*
- 4. Be satisfied*
- 5. Be shown mercy*
- 6. See God*
- 7. Be called sons of God*
- 8. Is the kingdom*

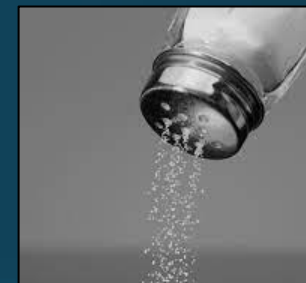
Salt and Light Text

Matt 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. **14** “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **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. **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.

- The core of Jesus' salt and light teaching is about influence. Impact.
- Jesus taught us to be “salty”, only a different kind of salty. [Not profane]
- Our mission is to glorify God by our influence, which presupposes the kind of character seen in the beatitudes. Kingdom citizens.
- Jesus is calling Christians to influence the world we live in.
 - What influence do we have individually?
 - What influence does the corporate church have?
 - Does our salt and light cause others to glorify God?
- Purpose: Salty and bright Christians bring glory to God

Review: Differences Between Salt and Light

- Jesus used two metaphors: Salt and Light, indicating two types of influence.
- Salt
 - Salt is often the silent and subtle influence. Quiet but powerful.
 - Salt infiltrates, changes the world from inside out.
 - Salt must be in contact with the substance it is affecting.
 - Salt holds back the moral decay of the world.
 - Salt is influence by moral fortitude, standing against evil, words seasoned with grace. Demonstrates how Christians are different from the world. Living like Jesus.
- Light
 - Light is obvious, it is obtrusive and may be unwanted.
 - Light can be useful from a distance.
 - Light proclaims truth, exposes sin. Illuminates the pathway.
 - Light is influence by good deeds, proclaiming the gospel or confronting sin. Preaching Jesus.



Why Salt and Light?

Matt 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth...14 “You are the light of the world.

- This teaching presupposes a decaying and dark world.
- Christians are the preserving force to hold back decay (negative).
- But Christians are also the illuminating force of truth (positive).
- The pronoun “you” in Greek is Nominative, 2nd Person, Plural form
 - Adds an emphasis: YOU are the ONLY salt this world has
- Jesus’ plan to influence the world is through his people. There is no plan B.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- It’s humbling to think God uses simple people like us to do His work.
 - Adam from dirt, Moses’ speech, David’s Goliath, Jesus’ arrival, disciples’ pedigree...
 - 1 Cor 1:26-28 not many wise, powerful, of noble birth were called. God chose the foolish to shame the wise; weak to shame the strong; despised; so no one could boast in the flesh.

Light Set on a Hill

Matt 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **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. **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.

- Light is meant to be manifest and visible for all to see.
 - A lit city on a hill can be seen from a long distance. Good for navigation (like a compass, star or lighthouse).
 - A lamp sheds light for those in the house to see clearly. Illuminates the path and shows clear obstacles.
- Hiding a light defeats the purpose of the light!
- Jesus uses this very obvious truth to illustrate a spiritual lesson. Christians help those in darkness:
 - To see God’s light from a distance, to know we are Christians
 - Illuminate the path of the gospel up close, articulate truth, defend the faith
- Don’t suppress God’s light that you possess! Why do you think God gave you light in the first place?



Glorify Our Father

Matt 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **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. **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.”

- Vs. 16 Jesus is teaching that:
 - 1. people can see our good works (implies observability)
 - 2. they glorify our Father in heaven (implies audibility)
- As light carrying agents, live the truth & speak the truth, just as Jesus did.
 - Acts 1:1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach...
- Light is an overt, positive testimony in both word and deed.
- “Let your light shine”: The light of Christ is there, just allow it to transmit.
- A godly life testifies to the saving power of God

Light of God

- Our light originates with God

[David] **2 Sam 22:29** For you are my lamp, O LORD, and my God lightens my darkness. [repeated in **Psa 18:28**]

Psa 36:9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

#895 Thy Word

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

- God is Light. (truth, knowledge, goodness, righteousness, purity...)
- Comprehensive term for God's revelation of himself, his word, his son.
- God gives light to his people, which then become "lamps" of the world

Shining Light in a Dark Place

2 Sam 21:17...Then David's men swore to him, "You shall no longer go out with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel."

- David called "lamp of Israel"

Isa 49:6...I will make you [preserved of Israel] as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

- Israel called a light for the world

2 Cor 4:5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. **6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

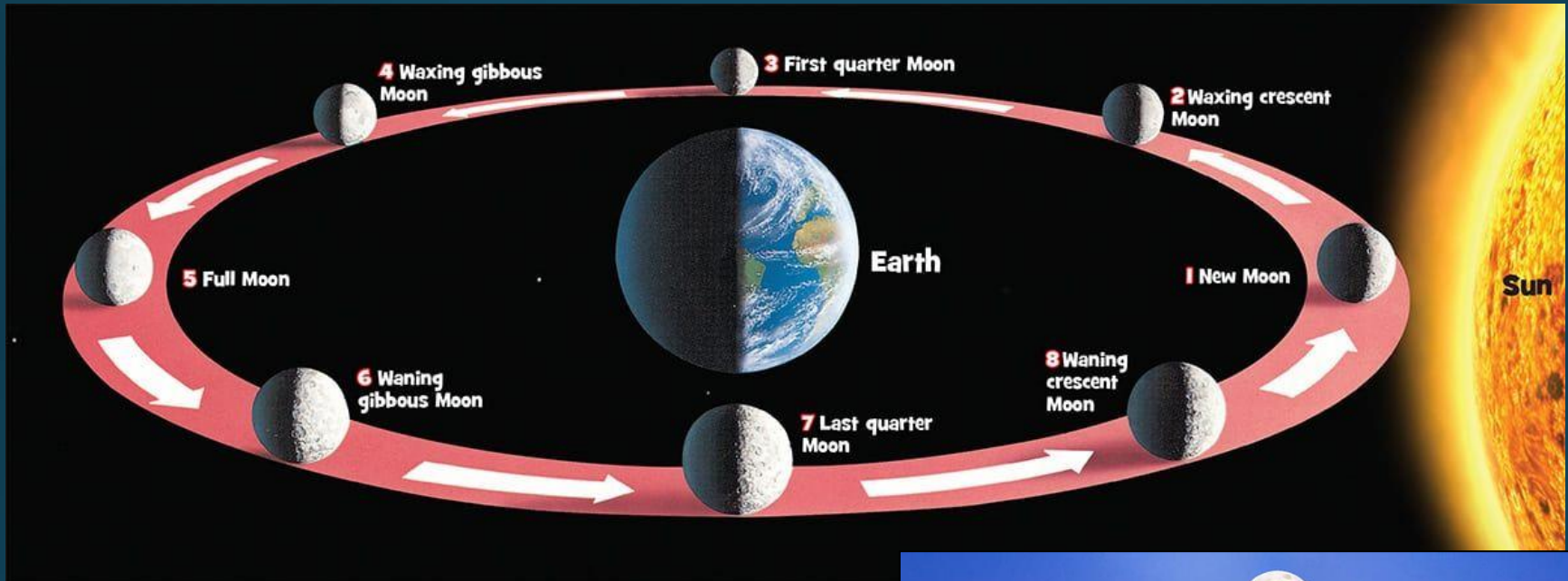
- Paul describes the light as not his own, but God's
- Message: to make Christ known

Shine as Lights

Phil 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. **14** Do all things without grumbling or disputing, **15** that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **16** holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

- Vs. 15 We exist in a “crooked and twisted generation”
- Shine as lights!
- Vs. 14-15 Without grumbling/disputing, blameless, innocent, without blemish
 - if the world is going to find fault, they’ll need to make something up.
 - Critical prerequisites for standing as God’s light
- Hold fast to Jesus (vs 16) and Shine!

Sun & Moon Analogy



Gen 1:17 And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth...

- Moon has no light of its own; it reflects sunlight

Phil 2:15...among whom you shine as lights in the world

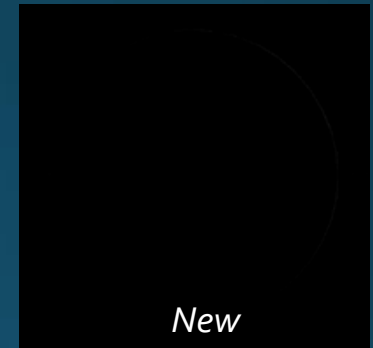
- Reflecting the light of Jesus



A Faithful Witness



Psalm 89:35 Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David. 36 His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me. 37 Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies."



- Moon testified to God's covenant with David: David → Christ(Branch) → Church
- What phase is our witness for God?

The Danger

Matt 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **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.”

- Danger with salt is contamination, losing saltiness
- Danger with light is obscuration, hindering God’s message
 - Phil 2:14-15 list: grumbling, disputing, blame, guilt, blemishes
 - Sin. Heb 12:1...let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us
 - Worldliness: James 1:27...to keep oneself unstained from the world.
 - Fear. John 19:38...Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews...Don’t be a Joseph!
 - Shame: **2 Tim 1:8** Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord
- When our light is hidden, we hinder the message. The world needs our message!

Example: David Can't Hold It In

Psalm 40:8 I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." 9 I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD. 10 I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation. 11 As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

- David did not hold back the praise and testimony of God!
- Joke: What do some Christians and the arctic rivers have in common?

Psalm 71:15 My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge. 16 With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone. 17 O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. 18 So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Summary: Light of the World

- Salt and light describe Jesus' plan to impact the people in the world for the kingdom, and more specifically, God's glory.
- God is Light and giver of light. We are light bearers!
- We must be distinct from the world in order to impact it.
- Let God's light shine, don't obscure it or hide it.
- The dark world needs to see the light of all Christians.
 - Be a David, not a Joseph
- One light visible for along distance, but many lights change communities

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Next time Lordwilling: Salt & Light Evangelism

