

Series: Kingdom Culture
Title: S-N-L
Speaker: Bob Marvel
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Passage: Matthew 5:13-16

So far, the crowd Jesus was speaking to have heard that they are blessed when they are poor in spirit, mourning, meek, persecuted, pure in heart, peacemakers and more, and their rewards will be the greatest rewards of all! What a counter cultural message! Re-read the Beatitudes for a reminder of the amazing beginning of this message, and that this great news is available for all!

Right after the Beatitudes, Jesus doesn't let them (and us) rest in these riches and rewards without then giving them (and us) responsibility. He meets us in our brokenness, and we are surprised by the riches we get in return. And now, with this foundation, the rest of the Sermon tells us how we are to live. And fasten your seat belt.....this is counter cultural, life transforming stuff!

A friend of mine calls this: **Gospelized Humanity**. We not only receive the gospel, we are changed by the gospel. And we now are called to live the gospel, allowing it to transform our lives, in **both word and deed**. We are blessed, to be a blessing to others!

Jesus begins by telling us: "You are the salt of the *earth*, the light of the *world*."

Read Matthew 5:13-16

1. How do you think the crowd would have responded when they heard these words?
2. How do you feel when you hear Jesus call you (us) the salt of the earth and the light of the world?
3. What is the purpose of salt? What is the purpose of light? How does that help us understand what Jesus says about our purpose in the world?
4. How does this contrast with the way the Essenes (a community in Jesus' day) lived? Why might we be tempted to live the same way today?
5. How might we lose our saltiness? How might our light be hidden?
6. We are to be distinct and make a difference in the world. What kind of difference does Jesus want us to make?
7. Read John 1:9-12. What does this say about Jesus, and what He came to do?
8. Read Ephesians 5:8-10. How do we live as children of light? (Read Eph. 4:1-3)

9. Read II Corinthians 4:5-7. What does this passage say about how we can be salt and light to those around us? Why would God use us as 'earthen vessels'? Where does the 'all surpassing power' come from?
10. Read Acts 17:26 How does this verse give new meaning and purpose to you, the neighborhood you live in, the place you go to work or school, and the time you are living in right now?
11. Read Matthew 5:16. What are others to see in us? What is to be the result?
12. Bonus question: What impression do you think most of the world has of Christians? If you think it is less than positive, why do you think that might be the case? Is it possible that Jesus is calling us to live differently? What might positive effective, Jesus reflective 'salt and light' look like in our world today? How might you live that way with those around you?