

HIGHER GROUND

the Sermon on the Mount

Salt and Light

Matthew 5:13-16

Matthew 5 *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. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In 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.*

When we lose power, what are the two things we think about first?

1. **LIGHT**: we cannot stay in the **DARK!**
2. **FOOD**: it will **SPOIL** if we do not do something!

In the same way, Jesus is telling us:

1. The world needs something to **LIGHT** the way
2. The world needs a **PRESERVATIVE** against decay.

Ephesians 5:8 *...for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light...*

We were **DARKNESS**, now we are **LIGHT**

Look at the warning we were given...

verse 14: A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

verse 15: Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket.

You can't **HIDE** it! You can't **COVER** it up!

Rather, He is telling you to **SHINE!**

Danger:

- We can easily replace bold proclamation with "**GOOD RIGHTEOUS LIVING**".

Two paradigms:

- Keep my head low because I want to be "**HUMBLE**"
- Boldly proclaim, but they do not **LIVE** it.

Question: Which better exemplifies the need for the Gospel?

- When I have it **ALL TOGETHER?**
- When I have **NO OTHER OPTION** than Christ?

1 Peter 3: 14-15 *But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...*

My prayer:

Live your life in such a way that what you do prompts people to recognize the hope that we live for! Shine your light so they might praise your Father who is in heaven.

BIBLE READING PLAN

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Revelation 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: Genesis 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: Genesis 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: Genesis 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: Genesis 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: Genesis 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: Genesis 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Genesis 7 |

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