

Living in the Kingdom of God

New Life Lessons
June 9th & 10th, 2012
Pastor Ron Salsbury

The central message of the Sermon on the Mount is the *present availability* of the Kingdom of the Heavens to all people! The Kingdom is “*at hand*,” it’s available! So, the important question is, “Will we invite Christ in to our “kingdom” to reign and rule as our “king?” As we do, we will begin to live in his kingdom, and he will change us from the inside out!

- **Day One - Read Matthew 5:13**

1. What are the qualities of *salt* that are metaphors for our intended influence on the world? In what ways are we to be “different” from the world, in order to have an influence on the world?
2. What can we do to develop these qualities as we partner with our Master Jesus?

Pray – Ask God to help you develop these qualities.

- **Day Two - Read Matthew 5:14-16**

1. What are the qualities of *light* that are metaphors for our intended influence on the world? In what ways does our “presence” allow us to have influence on the world?
2. What can we do to develop these qualities as we partner with our Master Jesus?

Pray – Ask God to help you develop these qualities.

What will Be Your Action Steps?

“Salty and Totally Lit!”

The Sermon on the Mount #3

Matthew 5:13-20

Matthew 5:13-20 (NLT) ¹³ “**You are the salt of the earth.** But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. ¹⁴ “**You are the light of the world**—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, **let your good deeds shine out for all to see**, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. ¹⁷ “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. **I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.** ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear **until its purpose is achieved.** ¹⁹ So if you ignore **the least commandment** and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who **obeys God’s laws and teaches them** will be called **great in the Kingdom of Heaven.** ²⁰ “But I warn you—**unless your righteousness is better** than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, **you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!**

Galatians 3:26-29 (NLT) ²⁶ **You are all children of God** through **faith in Christ Jesus.** ²⁷ And **all** who have been **united with Christ in baptism** have put on **the character of Christ**, like putting on **new clothes.** ²⁸ There is **no longer** Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And now that **you belong to Christ**, you are **the true children of Abraham.** You are his **heirs**, and **God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you.**

Colossians 3:11 (NIV) ¹¹ **Here** there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, **Scythian**, slave or free, but **Christ is all, and is in all.** 1 Corinthians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

God's Kingdom People as The Salt of the Earth

Matthew 5:13a (NIV) ^{13a} "You are the salt of the earth.

- **Salt** Exemplifies Purity .

1 Timothy 4:12b (NLT) ^{12b} Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

- **Salt** Preserves Food from Decay .

James 1:27 (NIV) ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

- **Salt** Brings Flavor to Life .

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NIV) ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Romans 12:9-13

Our Influence Requires Our Difference !

Matthew 5:13b (NIV) ^{13b} But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. Matthew 5:46-47; 1 Peter 2:12

God's Kingdom People as The Light of the World

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV) ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

John 8:12 (NIV) ¹² Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 3:18

- **The Light of Christ is** Truth .

Ephesians 5:13 (NLT) ¹³ Everything exposed by the light becomes visible. Ephesians 5:12; 4:15; Isaiah 30:10b-11

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV) ⁹ You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

- **The Light of Christ is** Love .

Ephesians 5:8b-9 (NIV) ^{8b} You are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth. 1 John 1:6-7

- **The Light of Christ is** Power .

John 1:12 (NIV) ¹² To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the power to become children of God. Isaiah 9:2

Our Influence Requires Our Presence !

Matthew 5:14b (MSG) ^{14b} "You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. Ephesians 5:8-9