

**“The Sermon on the Mount (pt. 1)
The Christians Responsibilities”**
Matt. 5:13-16

Open:

- Why did Christ teach His followers about how they are to carry themselves?
 - Was it for salvation?
 - Was it for self-gratification?
 - Was it for self-glorification?
- In order to understand the reason for the previous question, it is important to understand the purpose of a Christian’s existence on earth.
 - Jesus could have saved us then taken us immediately to heaven; but He didn’t, why?
 - **Jesus left us on earth, after salvation, to continue the work He started while He was on earth.**
 - **Lk. 5:32** *“I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*
 - **Lk. 19:10** *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*
 - Jesus’ goal was to reconcile (bring back into fellowship) His Father’s creation. Jesus came to earth not only to make the redemption possible; but to teach the redeemed how to carry on the work.
 - Jesus did not just want His followers just to get saved; but to also take part in the work that He started. **Mt. 4:19** *“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*
 - Jesus wanted His followers to recognize that He was leaving; but because they were staying, they would have more time to do the work than what Jesus had. **Jn. 14:12** *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”*
- **Jesus taught His followers how to act so they, like Him, would be more effective in reaching the lost.**
 - Jesus’ lifestyle was not what drew people to His Father, it was the truth He preached; but people were more inclined to listen to the truth Jesus preached because of the lifestyle Jesus lived.
 - The reason Jesus stresses to His followers the importance of living the right lifestyle is to bring validity to the power of the truth his followers were presenting. **James 2:17** *“Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead, being alone.”*
 - Before I can win someone to Jesus, I must win them to myself. The lost or carnal man will not want what I have just because it is right; they must see in my life something that draws them to what I have and to whose I am. **Prov. 11:30** *“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”*
 - It is unbiblical to trade personal evangelism for lifestyle evangelism; but it is undeniable that those who are most effective in their personal evangelism are those living a lifestyle that resembles Christ.
- Jesus wanted His followers to see they could assist the Holy Spirit by reaching the souls of men, as the Holy Spirit reached their Heart.
 - The Holy Spirit convicts the lost through the life of an obedient Christian.
 - We must win their soul, so God can revive their spirit. **Prov. 11:30** *“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”*
 - The reason God gives the Holy Spirit to a Christian is to do what the Christian cannot do; **after** the Christian has done all he can do. **John 14:11** *“Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works’ sake.”*
 - Jesus was teaching His followers, you believed in the Father; because of what you saw in Me; now go and do the same thing for the work’s sake.

- **ILL:** *You would not seek advice from a homeless man on how to start a business. Why would the world (who has no Holy Spirit in them) be drawn to Christ if all they saw were “Saved Christians” who were acting just like they were.*

I. **The Christians responsibility as salt.** (*Mt. 5:13*)

- Antiseptic = Cures a disease (sin) – Only Christ is Antiseptic
- Aseptic = Hinders the putrefying processing – This is what we as Christians are.

A. Seasons – **Col. 4:5-6** *“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. [6] Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”*

- i. We do not need to change a difficult truth for the lost or carnal man to receive it; we must simply apply more grace.
- ii. Our attitude and our lifestyle does not need to be one of compromise to be effective; we must simply makes sure we are allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us as we live and teach the truths of the Word of God.

- The Bible never gives permission to a child of God to be rude or unkind to anyone, just because we are *“Independent, Fundamental, bible-believing, hell-raising Baptists.”*

B. Purifies – **Eph. 5:26-27** *“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, [27] That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”*

- i. The life of a Christian should purify the lives of those around them. A child of God should avoid any lifestyle that would cause his effectiveness to diminish. **II Tim. 3:5** *“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”*
- ii. The church (individuals who are saved) is to live a life that is pure and clean without blemish. Our life should purify those around us. **II Cor. 6:3-10** *“Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: [4] But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God...”*

C. Stings – **Acts 2:37-38** *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? [38] Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...”*

- We are not to allow how a lost or carnal man might receive the truth to prevent us from presenting the truth. **Gal. 4:16** *“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”*
 - **ILL:** Like Stephen, we must keep our eyes focused on our responsibility and leave the response in God’s Hand. **Acts 7:54-55** *“When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. [55] But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,”*
- i. **We, as Christians, are not to just contain the truth, we are to apply the truth.** *“Salt left in the shaker does nobody any good.”*
- ii. We, as Christians, are not to look for a fight, but we must be willing to take a stand for truth.
- iii. We, as Christians, are to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. **Mt. 10:16** *“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”*

II. **The Christians responsibility as light.** (Mt. 5:14-16)

- A. Remember, we are here as Christians following the example of Christ. Look at the reason Christ's ministry was so effective.
- i. Jesus' ministry was effective because He shined the light while being a shining light Himself.
Mt. 4:16 *"The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up."*
 - ii. If it is the Word of God that guides our feet on the path of life, then why would we not shine that same light in a world that is dark? **Ps. 119:105** *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*
 - This word lamp is the same word as candle in **Mt. 5:15**.
- B. We cannot be effective Christians just because we tell others about the light; we must walk in the light as we shine the light. **I John 1:5-7** *"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. [6] If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: [7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*
- i. We will block out and distort the true Light if we are not walking in the light as we shine our light. We must live in the light as we walk in the light.
 - ii. Our relationship with God is not seen in what we say, but by the actions we perform.
- C. We are not to just be the best light we can be. We are to be the best light we can be as we allow the true light to shine through us. **John 5:35-36** *"He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. [36] But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me."*
- i. Burning Light = A source of light (Sun)
 - ii. Shining Light = A Reflection of the source of light. (Moon)
 - **We must both be a burning light and a shining light.** **John 1:8** – *"He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light."*

Mt. 5:16

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

"Review Questions"

1. Why did Jesus leave us on earth? **To continue the work, He start while He was on earth.**
2. Why did Jesus teach his followers how to act? **So, they, like Him, would be more effective in reaching the lost.**
3. What are the two responsibilities that a Christian has to the Lost? **To be Salt and Light.**
4. We as Christians are to not just contain the truth, we are to do what with the truth? **We are to apply it.**
5. As Christians, what two types of lights are we to be? **A burning light and a shining light.**