

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ SoM, Part 10: Salt and Light

We are at a bridge, a transition, in the SoM

Last time...the conclusion of the Beatitudes and what we can expect for being Christ-like –
persecution
Rejoice!!!

The invitation to be citizens of the Kingdom of God and to share in the King's

- comfort
- inheritance of the earth
- righteousness
- mercy
- seeing God
- being called (forth and named) children of God
- reward for persecution by the world

The FB post of the message included a picture of the beheadings of the 12 Egyptian Christians by ISIS thugs

A YouTube video from Cairo: 2 of those thugs, watching the peace of the Christians in the midst of that terror and hearing their testimony have come to Christ!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EITWcbCrY7g&feature=youtu.be>

Those 12 Egyptian Christians were...salt and light

This time...we are the Salt and Light of the world

2 imperatives...something that demands attention and/or action...

- in the form of those 2 metaphors
- each with a warning for not so doing

Next...the strength/backbone of the Kingdom's Constitution,
followed with radical instruction on how to

- be a citizen of the kingdom of heaven i.e how to follow Jesus
- uphold the Constitution (Ch 5:20 – 7:14)

Matt 5:13-16

v13 Ye/we

- the disciples of Jesus Christ
- the citizens of the kingdom of heaven (v3-12)
- the ambassadors of the King

are to impact/influence human existence on earth

We are to be to mankind, Adam's race, as:

1. the salt of the earth

Jesus Christ's followers, the citizens of His kingdom, are to be to all men...
fellow believers and all the unbelieving citizens of the world...
like salt i.e. like what what salt is (its nature, characteristics, design)

- seasoning...
 - adds flavor – before/after my sandwich last Sunday afternoon –
from blah/no good to really good
 - Job 6:6 Can that which is unsavory be eaten without salt?
Or is there *any* taste in the white of an egg?
- preservation...in the days before refrigeration,
to prevent rotting/decomposition
- purification...a disinfectant that stings and heals wounds

Water softeners use salt to purify/regenerate/heal
calcium and magnesium-rich (hard) water

Since salt has these properties, it was very valuable in the days when Jesus was
teaching this lesson

Roman soldiers were paid in salt

Hence, the phrase “worth his salt”

We are to be as salt is...“worth our salt”...in a bland, rotting, wounded world

Col 4:5-6

Because John 3:17...by grace thru faith and that not of ourselves

btw...a side effect of salt: creates a thirst (v6)

What is the next word?

But...indicates a warning to His disciples that do not so influence the people around them

If the salt becomes insipid, un-salt-like (un-Christ-like)...”foolish”

- corrupted...by Self or the world and losing its seasoning, preserving, and purifying qualities
- compromised...no different than the world it was intended to season, preserve, and purify
- ineffective and indistinctive

how can it be re-constituted and restored in value?

Unless it is re-constituted and restored in value, it is

- good for nothing...of no worth whatsoever, no more valuable than dirt
- thrown away with the trash
- trampled underfoot

worthy of judgment and disdain

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| <u>Luke 14:34-35</u> | not good for fertilizer or for the dunghill |
| <u>Matt 8:10-12</u> | cast out |
| <u>Matt 22:11-14</u> | taken away, cast out |
| <u>Matt 25:30</u> | opposite of “Well done good and faithful servant” |

Therefore,

- disciples of Jesus Christ are called to take their calling to follow Jesus VERY seriously...with their whole heart
- sharply warned are:
 - “closet Christians”
 - “jack Christians”
 - cultural Christians
 - fair weather Christians
 - CEO Christians
 - Christians that have left their first love (Rev 2:4-5)
 - lukewarm Christians (Rev 3:16-17)...vomited

A disciple of Jesus Christ who

- is not an agent of seasoning, preserving, purifying/healing in this world
- does not act according to the nature of Jesus Christ the King

is

- not worthy of His name
- in for an uncomfortable conversation with the King at His judgment seat

1 Cor 3:10-15

2 Cor 5:10

A decision to follow Jesus is a very serious commitment...it is not a game of charades

v14-15 Ye/we

- the disciples of Jesus Christ
- the citizens of the kingdom of heaven (v3-12)
- the ambassadors of the King

are to impact/influence human existence on earth, Adam's race, as:

2. The light of the world

Disciples of Jesus are to the world as light is to darkness

- chase away darkness
- illuminate the path for those in darkness
- knowing no boundaries

In OT (Scripture when Jesus is addressing the Jews on the Mount of Beatitudes),
Light referred to:

- God
 - Ps 18:28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.
 - Micah 7:8 Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD *shall be* a light unto me.
 - (Later, succinctly stated in 1 John 1:5 and James 1:17)

[Light No Darkness]

- Servant of God, the Messiah
 - Is 42:1-6
 - Is 49:1-6
 - Is 9:1-6
 - (Later, Jesus would "illuminate" in John 8:12)
- The Word of God
 - Ps 119:105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (John 1:1, 14 with John 8:12)

Yet we are the light of the world?

What does this mean?

Hold that thought

Nonetheless we are the light of the world, Jesus is saying so, therefore our lives lived before the citizens of the world are not to be hidden/covered
A city on a hill cannot be hidden...the lights piercing the darkness of night can be seen for miles

A standard bees wax candle

- ala the kind put inside a pumpkin by the heathen
- that has burned long enough to get wax melting
- in total darkness
- with very clear air

can be seen by dark-adapted eyes...from a distance of 10 miles!

This speaks to the marvel/wonder of the human eye created by God
(not to mention the eyes of animals that are far superior)

This is why blackouts were enforced on the coasts during WW II

No one lights a lamp in a dark house and then puts a basket over it!
What would be the point of the lamp if you want to hide the light?!

We cannot effectively hide our relationship with the Lord...

- if we genuinely have one
- nor are we to try to hide it (Rom 1:16)

Again, Jesus sternly warns "Light Hiders"

- "closet Christians"
- "jack Christians"
- cultural Christians
- fair weather Christians
- CEO Christians
- Christians that have left their first love (Rev 2:4-5)...candle removed
- lukewarm Christians (Rev 3:16-17)

Instead...

v16 Let your light:

“Ye” in v13 and v14 now gets personal – your
An imperative to every individual disciple

before men:

personal interaction with the lost souls on earth

God the Father is Light and is the Father of Lights
Jesus Christ is The Light of the world
What is “our” light?

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ
liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the
faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

(Patrick Wood last Sunday night at Prophecy Conf 2016 “shed light” on this):

We are (our identity) where we come from

Genealogy in the Jewish mind (Jesus’ audience in Gospel of Matt):

I was “in” my parents before I was born, even when they were children

I was “in” my grandparents, great grandparents, etc...back to Adam

As such, I was a partaker of their deeds...as branches are partakers of the root
As a descendent of Adam...”in” Adam...I am a partaker of his deeds – sin
Thus, I am condemned

But God...The Father of lights and the Servant of God/LoW intervened
Now, by grace thru faith, and neither one of those my own, I have been rescued
from condemnation, freed from the power of darkness and translated into
the kingdom of Light of Jesus Christ (Col 1:13) and given an inheritance
of light (Col 1:12)

Now, I am “in” Christ (Root of David) and a partaker of His deeds!!!!

And “my” light...Jesus Christ in me, the hope of glory...must shine!

As the Son came to do the will of the Father and glorify the Father, so is He “in”
me to do the will of the Father and to glorify the Father!

By good works

2 Tim 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with a holy calling, not
according to our works, but according to his own purpose
and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the
world began,

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto
good works, which God hath before ordained that we
should walk in them.

Acts 26:17-18 (Jesus is speaking...faith that is in Me)

We, as ambassadors of Light, are to

- be radically different than the citizens of the world
- bear witness personally of God's power to save and make new and to give life/light to the dead/dark
- glorify our Father, not ourselves
 - He will not share His glory!
 - our lives/light is His work not ours so the glory is His not ours
 - my works should never draw attention to myself
- be imitators of Jesus Christ

Take note of the personal nature of the imperative

- To every individual
- For personal interaction in the world
- By the power of the Spirit of Christ "in" and "upon" us
- To the glory of the Father...a loving vs legal relationship with a Personal God

Rom 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God... whether or not we are the salt and light of the world

The Church is not a social club or an entertainment center

The Church is an army

Christians are not fraternity brothers

Christians are a band of brothers on a search-and-rescue mission

Be salt

Be light

Rom 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light