

I. Introduction

- A. Video recap: Beatitudes
- B. 2 Chronicles 7:14

"If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

- 1. Humility
 - a. In order to pray biblically
 - b. In order to seek God's face
 - c. In order to turn from sin
- 2. Two things about God's kingdom
 - a. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of the heart
 - 1) Real kingdom, real king, but
 - 2) The life of the kingdom is principally a spiritual life.

**It has to be a matter of the heart before it can be anything else.

- b. Life in the kingdom will be hard
 - 1) Jesus does not call us with a promise of unbounded wealth and perfect health.
 - 2) He does promise blessing, but sometimes that blessing will be experienced in the pain of rejection and loss.

**The kingdom of God in you and around you is only as present and potent as your humility.

II. Now that we know who, we can move to what (Matthew 5:13-16)

**But remember, if you fail to be who God wants you to be, you will never be successful at what God wants you to do.

A. You are called to be salt (verse 13)

- 1. Preservative
 - a. Preservation was the most basic and common use of salt.
 - b. Salt was not most desirable to enhance taste, it was crucial to assist with life.
 - c. Loses its saltiness = becomes defiled and doesn't do its job
- 2. A call to arrest corruption and prevent moral decay
 - a. Prerequisite: Humility 101 and Prayer 201
 - b. "No longer good": not salvation, but no longer viable influence for the kingdom of God
- 3. How?
 - a. Arrest corruption and prevent moral decay by advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ - redemption, salvation, and transformation.
 - b. Remain salty? Humility
 - 1) If you lose humility as a Christ follower, your witness and your words become worthless.
 - 2) Without humility, you cannot be the child messenger of the King.
 - because God doesn't trust you
 - because people will dismiss you

B. You are called to be light (verses 14-16)

1. Focused illumination
 - a. Light always wins; darkness cannot exist in any light.
 - b. A focused beam is specific and intentional about what it illuminates.
2. Our light must be focused on God.
 - a. Your light toward God
 - b. Your works from God
 - c. Stands in stark contrast to arrogant light - Matthew 6:1

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father Who is in Heaven.”

3. Humble light
 - a. Focused first on God
 - b. Fruit in keeping with repentance - Matthew 3:8

“Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”

III. Being and doing salt and light

A. We are not called to control secular power structures; neither are we promised that we can Christianize the legislation and values of the world. But we are called to be humble, preserving agents of light, sometimes irritants, in calling the world to see and heed God's message of redemption, salvation and transformation.

1. Our talk and activity must be preceded with character rooted in humility and biblical prayer.
2. If we open our mouths without those things being true then we need to stop talking.
3. The only thing that happens when an arrogant and unprayed believer opens his/her mouth is legalism or relativism.
 - a. Legalism - the rules are more important than God (idolatry)
 - b. Relativism - the person is more important than God (idolatry)

**Both set themselves arrogantly above God!

B. How we engage

1. Issue is secondary, Who we represent is primary
2. As representatives - more so children and image bearers - we are called to be prior to do
 - a. Biblical humility leads us
 - b. Biblical prayer precedes us
3. Our core beliefs
 - a. Everyone has been created and is born with the image of God.
 - our innate value comes from that, not our beliefs or actions
 - b. Everyone has been deceived by their own sin nature.
 - our value doesn't diminish, but our eternal destination does
 - c. Everyone has a chance at redemption, salvation and transformation no matter where they are in life
 - 1) At this point our lives change - no longer our own but bought with a price
 - 2) We no longer treat people and talk to people the way we would, but treat and talk the way of Christ.

C. Next week

1. Begin three weeks of conversations
 - a. The church has been silenced.

- 1) We'd like to believe that silencing is from the evil in the world.
- 2) It's not. The church has been silenced by its own arrogance and powerless prayer.
- b. The church is not called to be silent
 - 1) Salt: called to preserve the good God created
 - 2) Light: called to spotlight God through Christ
2. God vs Conventional Wisdom
 - a. The world is filled with spiritual issues. We are called to engage.
 - b. However, the world would like us to believe that there are secular (cultural and political) issues we have no say in.
3. The truth - with all humility and prayer
 - a. Jesus is Lord of all things. And in this context, all means all.
 - b. When Scripture speaks clearly, then the church speaks clearly.
 - c. When addressing an issue, it's not what you say but who you imitate when saying it.
 - d. Jesus took whatever environment He was in and He leveraged it to where people would hear and understand His Gospel.

Challenge:

1. Prepare your heart - humility and prayer
2. Come back, ready to think and talk like Jesus