



Part 3: Mission in the Kingdom

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*Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
- Psalm 34:8*

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus contrasts two types of good:

Those who are good by their own standard

Those who live according to God's kingdom

"You are the salt of the earth. 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 underfoot." - Matthew 5:13

Jesus defines who we are: we are seasoning.

We are to bring out the flavor of God.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. - Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus defines what we are to do: we are to be a beacon.

We are to reveal the goodness of God.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 5:17-20

Jesus defines who he is. He is the fulfillment.

We are to obey God in everything.

Jesus contrasts two types of living:

Religious living

Work for self

Look at me

What I have done

Serve to get noticed

Kingdom living

Work for God

Look at God

What Christ has done

Serve to love God and others

We show the reality of Jesus when we live within his kingdom.

When we understand the mission of Jesus, we see the mission he has for us.

Colossians 4:5-6

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Next Steps

Read the Sermon on the Mount again. This time look for ways that Jesus contrasts “good” living with a new kingdom way of living. Do you need to change anything?

Ask a few friends what they believe is most important to you based on your words and actions. How can you live a more Christ-centered life?

Small Group Questions

- 1) How old and where were you when you first started thinking about the meaning of life?
- 2) Read Matthew 5:13-20. What do you think it means to be the salt of the earth? If salt preserves, what should you preserve? If salt flavors, how should you flavor?
- 3) What does it mean to be the light of the world? What do you think you are shining on, revealing or bringing attention to?
- 4) What is it that Christ came to fulfill? How did he do it?
- 5) How could you live a more kingdom-centered life? How do you think that could affect people around you?
- 6) How can we pray for you?

OUR MISSION | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.