

Shake and Shine!

Matthew 5:13-16

“**You** are the salt of the earth...**You** are the light of the world.”

The beatitudes express a “congratulations” from God to man because they now experience the long-awaited saving presence of God.

“The term translated “blessed” (*makarioi*) is descriptive of the present state of those who have received God’s favor and thus are to be “congratulated.” The disciple’s deep joy and happiness is predicated upon God’s gracious response to their condition, not upon favorable external conditions.”¹

Now that the hearers of Matthew 5 are blessed beyond any other people, they now have a greater responsibility.

1. **You...You and you** alone are the salt earth and light of the world
 - a. Who else is going to shake and shine if not Christ’s followers?
 - b. **You** may be the only Christian with whom others interact, **you** may be the only Christian they know.
 - c. What do they know?
 - d. What do they see in **you**?
2. The world’s condition is summed up in one word-DARKNESS (Col. 1:13).
 - a. We live in the most enlightened time ever, yet we are still in darkness (2 Tim. 3:1-5).
 - b. There still remains a sin-problem that casts humanity into the depths of hell if not repented (John 1:4-5; 8:12)
 - c. Many in the days of Christ were attracted to Him because He was the light and His words were flavorful, and today many are still looking for the light that shines and the salt that gives depth to their lives.

The salt we spread and the light we shine is not our own, but borrowed from Jesus (John 12:35-36).

1. Moon reflects the light from the Sun, we too should be careful that we are reflecting the light from the Son.
 2. The Son is the greater light.
- I. Our influence for Good (Matthew 5:13)
- A. Salt looks pretty in salt-shaker, but it is useless in the salt-shaker
 1. We are in the world but not of the world (John 17:15)
 2. God intends for us to proclaim Jesus who has called us out of darkness and into His light (1 Peter 2:9)
 3. How can we accomplish this is the salt remains in the salt-shaker? How can we accomplish this if we as Christians just stay in the church building or just hang with other Christians? We need to get out in the community.
 4. The offensive team huddles and plans, then faces the defensive team and makes a play. The church “huddles” every time it meets for worship, and then must meet the opposition of the world-the salt must leave the shaker.

¹ Chouinard, L. (1997). [Matthew](#) (Mt 5:3). Joplin, MO: College Press.

Sermon on the Mount

- B. Salt maintains its distinctiveness (Matthew 5:13)
 - 1. Salt is different than the world. If salt made no difference we wouldn't use it. Jesus said that if salt becomes tasteless, then throw it out. But as long as salt is salty it serves its purpose.
 - 2. As long as Christians are making an impact in the lives of people, influencing people in positive ways, then the Christian is still useful.
 - 3. But as soon as Christians become "tasteless" they have become like the world (Romans 12:2; 2 Cor. 6:15)
 - C. Salt preserves from decay (Matthew 5:13)
 - 1. In Noah's day there was not enough salt (Genesis 6).
 - 2. Same was true in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18).
 - 3. Never underestimate the force of one person standing for what is right, one person standing for what is right can preserve.
 - D. Salt adds flavor (Matthew 5:13)
 - 1. Nobody likes bland food, The same can be said about a life without Jesus!
 - 2. The world says that opposite, that Christ removes the flavor of life (fun).
 - a. A glance at the lives of Hollywood celebrities will tell us that status, money and popularity does not add flavor to life, but it does add bitterness.
 - b. Too many curse and belittle Christianity as ignorant, but they themselves die in misery, i.e., Ernest Hemingway.
 - c. Only Christianity allows one to live at the peak level of human existence.
 - d. Forgiven and facing each day with faith and hope, and Christians should sprinkle the world with that same faith and hope.
 - E. Salt makes its presence known (Matthew 5:13)
 - 1. Salt is never poured, you simply shake it because a little goes a long way!
 - 2. God would have saved Sodom and Gomorrah if there had been a "***pinch of salt***" left-ten righteous souls.
 - 3. You don't have to be loud and obnoxious to get your point across.-simply quietly and in a salt form, when you stand for righteousness people will notice.
 - F. Salt loses itself in its work
 - 1. When salt is sprinkled in the soup it soon disappears but when tasted, you know it's there, it has gained its effect.
 - 2. The same should be true with Christians. We don't need to have the spotlight on us, but on Christ. Remember let the light reflect on Christ and not on us.
 - G. Eat ham and the salt makes you thirsty (Matthew 5:13) Our goal is to spread enough salt so that others will thirst for the things of God (Matthew 5:16).
- II. Our impact on those around us-Light (Matthew 5:14-16)
- A. Light attracts attention-When there is light people tend to look at the light
 - 1. As Christians we are being watched in order to detect hypocrisy.
 - 2. Jesus was always being watched "in order to catch Him."
 - 3. Ephesians 5:8; 1 Peter 2:12
 - B. Light reveals the Way (Psalm 119:105)
 - 1. How we treat the waitress
 - 2. How we interact with the cashier
 - 3. How we choose to handle gossip
 - 4. Will we shine for God or will we hide our light?
 - C. Light is also used with understanding-Now I see! (Psalm 119:130)
 - D. Light guides

Sermon on the Mount

1. Whenever you are lost in the dark and there is no flashlight, you realize how valuable light is.
 2. Ever notice when the electricity goes out in the middle of the night people are looking for a flashlight? Why? Just go to bed!
 3. The light makes the pathway plain.
 4. God seeks for one who will stand in the gap and shine his light (Ezekiel 22:30)
 5. He expects His children to be role models, leaders and shining guiding lights for the lost.
- E. Light warns
1. Red, yellow, blue, flashing, etc.
 2. Christians have a duty to warn the world about hell and announce the glories of heaven (Ezekiel 3:17; Galatians 6:1-2)
- F. Light gives life
1. When grass is covered it dies
 2. When we stay in the darkness we suffer and need vitamin D
 3. We need the Son-light, prayer light, Scripture light, church light, etc.
- G. Light brings glory to God (Matthew 5:16)

Jesus never said to dump a truckload of salt on people, more is not better in this case. Our aim should be to season by shaking the salt-shaker, using balance and common sense. Our aim should not be to blind people with the light as did the Pharisees who did things to be seen of men and as a result, shined their own light and not the light of the Son.

It is also essential that we shine the light and shake the salt shaker continuously, not just once in a while. We are here on this earth to glorify God (Isaiah 43:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION
U. S. Weather Bureau Report
Early thunderstorms, fair, pleasant tonight
Temp. range: 85-72;
Temp.-Hum. Index: mod. S

NEW YORK, MONDAY, JULY 3, 1961. 15 cents beyond 35-mile zone from New York City except on Long Island. Higher in air delivery zones.

N. SOVIET WILL OPEN RESEARCH AREAS TO U. S. STUDENTS
Policy for Exchanges to Be Relaxed This Fall in New Display of Cooperation
By FRED M. HECHINGER
Soviet education authorities for the first time have opened their country's Research Institutes to American exchange scholars.
In a move toward greater cooperation, the Soviet Ministry of Higher Education is extending to American graduate students academic privileges that have been withheld from the exchange scholars since the Russian-American program began in 1958.
The Soviet move, coupled with Russian call for an expansion of the exchange, contrasts with deteriorating political relations between the two countries. American university spokesmen have negotiated the exchanges since 1958, expressed today their satisfaction over Soviet readiness to eliminate tape and delay.
Consider the opening of research Institutes a major step in academic relations. A ruling will be effective all.

Hemingway Dead of Shotgun Wound; Wife Says He Was Cleaning Weapon
Body Is Found in Home in Idaho—Novelist, 61, Won the Nobel Prize
Special to The New York Times.
KETCHUM, Idaho, July 2—Ernest Hemingway was found dead of a shotgun wound in the head at his home here today.
His wife, Mary, said that he had killed himself accidentally while cleaning the weapon.
Mr. Hemingway, whose writings won him a Nobel Prize and a Pulitzer Prize, would have been 62 years old July 21.
Frank Hewitt, the Blaine County Sheriff, said after a preliminary investigation that the death "looks like an accident." He said, "There is no evidence of foul play."
The body of the bearded, barrel-chested writer, clad in a robe and pajamas, was found by his wife in the foyer of their modern concrete house.
A double-barreled, 12-gauge shotgun lay beside him with one chamber discharged.
Mrs. Hemingway, the author's fourth wife, whom he married in 1946, issued this statement:
"Mr. Hemingway accidentally killed himself while cleaning a gun this morning at 7:30 A. M. No time has been set for the funeral services, which will be private."

U. S. FUNDS TO AID 3 LATIN NATIONS
95° Day Crowds Beaches
Holiday Traffic Toll Rises
By WALTER CARLSON

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Ernest Hemingway
Associated Press

Mrs. Hemingway was placed under sedation.
Coroner Ray McGoldrick said tonight that he would decide tomorrow, after speaking to Mrs. Hemingway, whether to hold an inquest.
The writer was discharged.
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