



Matthew 5:13-16

THE BLESSING LIFE: THE IMPACT OF THE KINGDOM CITIZEN

No human being can come into this world without increasing or diminishing the sum total of human happiness, not only of the present, but of every subsequent age of humanity. No one can detach himself from this connection. There is no sequestered spot in the universe, no dark niche along the disk of non-existence, to which he can retreat from his relations to others, where he can withdraw the influence of his existence upon the moral destiny of the world. Everywhere his presence or absence will be felt. Everywhere he will have companions, who will be better or worse for his influence... Thousands of my fellow-beings will enter eternity with characters differing from those they would have carried there had I never lived. The sunlight of that world will reveal my fingerprints in their primary formations and in all their successive strata of thought and life. —Elihu Burritt

The first-century Jew was hungry for change. Messianic fervor was high. People were tired of the high taxes, low morals, and oppressive power of the Roman government. Many were eager for political deliverance and cultural revival. There were four major religious groups during this time, each with their own particular philosophy.

	PHARISEES	SADDUCEES	ESSENES	ZEALOTS
Problem	“Sinners”	Status Quo	Society	State
Solution	Legalism	Liberalism	Isolation	Revolution
Motto	Frown!	Flow!	Flee!	Fight!

When Jesus came, He did not fit into any of these groups nor cater to any of their demands. Instead, He pointed all of them to their need for salvation from their sin and called them to follow Him.

The Purpose of the Sermon on the Mount:

1. To characterize the true nature of a kingdom citizen.
2. To confront people with the righteousness of God.
3. To call people to a life submitted to Jesus, the King.

The kingdom citizen who follows the King, Jesus Christ, will not only be blessed by God but will also be a blessing in the world.

B___ WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST

You are the salt of the earth.

You are the light of the world.

*Ever since the Romans arrived on the scene in 64 BC, the Jewish people were divided over how to respond to their rule. The **Zealots**, an ultra-nationalistic group, proclaimed revolution to be God's solution. The **Essenes** withdrew, waiting anxiously for the Messiah to lead a violent overthrow of the Romans. The **Sadducees** practiced a form of cooperation since it was Rome who kept them secure in their position over the temple and over the people. The **Pharisees**, condemning Rome's pagan excesses, viewed the foreign oppressors as God's hand punishing his people for their unfaithfulness to the Torah. The country was in turmoil, each faction longing in a different way for the freedom they desired.*

—Ray Vander Laan

The Bible says that our real problem is that every one of us is building our identity on something besides Jesus.

—Timothy Keller

It is my conviction that our heavenly Father says the same to us every day: “My dear child, you must always remember who you are.”

—John R. W. Stott

L _____ OUT THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

- The level of our _____ in this world is determined by the level of our _____ of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:1).
- We make a difference by being _____ (Phil. 2:1-16).

Poor in Spirit	<i>I see my own sin</i>	Merciful
Mourn	<i>I am broken over my sin</i>	Pure in Heart
Meek	<i>I have yielded my will to God</i>	Peacemakers
Hunger & Thirst	<i>I am pursuing God alone</i>	Persecuted

E _____ OPPOSITION

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matt. 5:11-12; cf. Phil. 1:29; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:12-19).

S _____ PURE & FAITHFUL

- As salt, we are highly _____.
- As salt, we _____ the world from the corruption of sin and “season” the world with the beauty of Christ.
- As salt, we must be in contact with the world but not corrupted by the world’s sin.



S _____ THE LIGHT OF JESUS CHRIST!

- As light, we _____ people to the way, the truth, and the life that is found in Jesus Christ.
- As light, we must be _____ for others to see.
- As light, we are to be a people of _____ works (cf. Eph. 2:10).



The great mistake made by most of the Lord’s people is in hoping to discover in themselves that which is to be found in Christ alone. —A. W. Pink

The Christian is not just like everybody else with a few slight differences. He is essentially different; he has a different nature and he is a different man.

—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

The persecuted are not merely men who have passed through a certain experience, but men who bear abiding traces of it in their character. —F. F. Bruce

Suffering is the badge of the true Christian. —Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Loses its flavor. Greek, *moraino*, “to be foolish; to act foolishly; to make flat or tasteless” (Thayer).

There was the common problem in the ancient world of salt being mixed with various impure substances and therefore becoming worthless as a preservative.

—Craig L. Blomberg

You are either being corrupted by the world or you are salting it. —George Truett

We are saved for the sake of God-exalting good works. This is the aim of justification—not the ground, but the aim and the fruit.

—John Piper

Good. Greek, *kalos*, “beautiful, lovely, winsome, excellent in its nature, intrinsically good.”

A Christian’s life should be nothing but a visible representation of Christ. —Thomas Brooks