



Matthew 5:13-20

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and

teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again in the second translation (next page). What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Read the beatitudes (5:1-12) and see how that “flavors” what it means to be salt and “refracts” what it means to be light. What might be the connection?
3. Jesus goes on in the sermon on the mount to interpret “the law” with phrases like “you have heard that it was said, but I tell you...” He fulfills the law by interpreting it: intensifying it (see 5:21), flipping it (see eye for an eye in 5:38), and living it. How might that apply to us and Jesus’ teaching today?
4. In what ways might we shine with the light Jesus speaks of? How have you seen others shine with the light Jesus speaks of?
5. What’s the use of salt in your life? How might that connect to what Jesus is trying to say here?

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