

SERMON ON THE MOUNT: BOUNDARIES

February 5, 2023

Preaching: Joseph Pusateri, Guest Preacher



MATTHEW 5:13-20

13“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. 14“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16In 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.

17“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 18For 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. 19Therefore, 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. 20For 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. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. What is the “saltiness” or essential quality that makes a Christian? How does that quality add “flavor” or bring out the best “flavors” in others, like salt does?
3. In your experience, what good works shine?
4. What do you think it means that Jesus came to fulfill, not abolish the Law/Teaching of Torah?
5. “Righteousness” can also be translated as “justice.” How does that different word impact the meaning of verse 20 and

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connect to the beatitudes in
Matthew 5:1-12?

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