

## "Reflecting Jesus" Matthew 5:10-16

When we choose to live according to the paradoxes given by Jesus in the Beatitudes, we can expect suffering. These principles are so entirely contrary to the world's values that we should anticipate not praise but persecution. And when persecuted, as we respond like Jesus, we reveal truth and life to the world. This is our calling as citizens of the kingdom of heaven.

### ***How do we suffer well and reflect Jesus?***

#### **I. Suffer well**

A. Don't be surprised – 1 P. 4:12.

Jn 15:18-20; If they persecuted me they will persecute you

All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution

Living contrary to world's values; result – world is uncomfortable

Not blessed because they suffer for being objectionable, jerks, obnoxious, lacking in wisdom so they have a bad witness; 1 P. 4:15

B. Don't retaliate but love – 5:43-44

doesn't apply to a crime against you

C. Don't become depressed but rejoice – 5:11-12

Luke 6:22-23 – leap for joy  
Acts 5:40-42

*How can you continue to rejoice when persecution is so unpleasant?*

D. Don't miss the point

Requires a complete change in perspective on suffering and persecution

1. It's not you they are rejecting but Christ
2. Their response vindicates your lifestyle; so they persecuted prophets; the world is telling you, "you don't belong here;" John 17:14-18

3. Remember your reward – Heb. 11:13-16
4. Your comfort and ease, your “right” not to be persecuted, is not as important as their eternal destiny

Your response to their persecution tears down barriers

***When we respond well to persecution, we fulfill our purpose in the world.***

Matthew 5:13-16: We are SALT AND LIGHT

Three assumptions: world is decaying, dull and dark

Kingdom is full of life

## **II. Spice things up – Salt – 5:13**

- In the area of religion – every grain offering to be given with salt
- Field of medicine – antiseptic, sterilized wounds, kept infection from spreading
- Commercial and political realm – exchanged to ratify a covenant
- Agricultural realm – preserved fertilizer
- Domestic – preservative and seasoning

- A. Preservative; fish caught in Galilee, sold in Jerusalem; travel slow and no refrigeration; salt kept meat from decaying

world thinks it is getting better and better but everything is decaying.  
Science, education, technology

truth of Gospel preserves life forever

- B. Seasoning – essential in the ANE; in every household

Job 6:6-7 “Can something tasteless be eaten without salt, Or is there any taste in the white of an egg? My soul refuses to touch *them*; They are like loathsome food to me.”

Life is bland, futile without Christ; Life with Christ is filled with JOY, peace

Not attracted because of what we DON'T do.

Create thirst.

- C. Useless for its intended purposes; Pavement – 5:13

"I might have entered the ministry if certain clergymen I knew had not looked and acted so much like undertakers." Oliver Wendell Holmes

How does salt become tasteless (lit. "foolish")?

"Salt" collected from Dead Sea; contained other white minerals attached to Sodium Chloride. Had to be purified to be used.

Must remain distinct; salt is essentially different

Unpurified, or if the salt became rinsed away by rain; white, sandy, hardened minerals remained; spread out and packed down on pathways

Engaged, but distinct

### **III. Scatter the darkness** – 5:14-15

#### A. Make truth obvious – 5:14-15

cities built where there was water; ideal locations; built on top of old city

very dark when sun went down; when traveling; no lights on highways

Go public. Private, personal holiness is not the ultimate goal of our faith

#### B. Make the giver of truth unavoidable – 5:16

Living in the name of Jesus. Not the name of myself

Matthew 5:13, 14: You are the salt of the **earth**... you are the light of the **world**

We are the only light available.

### **Conclusion**

The more we know Jesus, love Jesus, live for eternity with Jesus, the more we will reflect Him. Some will reject Him and us. Others will be drawn to Him in us.