

Matthew 5:11-20 (9/8/2024)

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Matthew 5:11-20

1. Jesus said, "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely **on my account.**" Are believers "blessed" when they are reviled and persecuted because of their own sin and folly? See Matthew 5:11 and 1 Peter 2:19-20 and explain your answer.

2. What do you find hopeful and helpful in a world that hates Jesus and His followers from Matthew 5:11-12; John 15:18-20; Romans 8:16-17; and Hebrews 10:35?

3. Describe the assets of salt. Why do you think Jesus calls believers "the salt of the earth"?

4. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). He also said, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14-16). What do you think He is saying?

5. How can you be salt and light in such a way that God is glorified in your current circumstances?

6. Jesus said He came to fulfill the Law. Explain how He fulfilled the moral law, the ceremonial (sacrificial) law, and the prophecies of the Old Testament.

7. To enter the kingdom of heaven our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 5:20), who took pride only in outward conformity to the law. Jesus calls us to kingdom righteousness which works from the inside out because it first produces changed hearts. How can this be (2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:22-23, and Hebrews 8:10)?

How has your heart and attitude changed towards obedience to God?