



Empowering People to Change the World

Kingdom Influence: Being Worth Your Salt

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The Influence of the Kingdom of God—Light

***God can move mountains in my life
I will build up my faith with God's Holy Word
I will come alive in the power of the Holy Spirit
With Jesus, nothing will be impossible***

**We are studying the Greatest Sermon ever given.
The Kingdom Manifesto**

- The world is looking for social order and it is not working very well.
 - United Nations
 - Laws
 - Supreme Court
 - Constitution
- God is showing us His Social Order—His Kingdom Manifesto.

“A Kingdom of God Revolution” is the governing influence of The King (Jesus) over His territory (earth), through His Citizens (us), who are expressing His culture and values, reflecting the nature of the King.

Kingdom Values for Happiness: Matthew 5:1-9

This is true happiness:

- We have to read the whole thing! You are blessed because you get the Kingdom, not just because you see your need for God. You get the Kingdom by being poor in Spirit...etc.
- Values of the Kingdom—God's order for things!!
- The Jesus Perspective—the Heart versus the Religious Leaders—the Law.
- Heart change!! Wholehearted. You cannot infect people if you do not have the disease. You do not give measles if you do not have

measles. With chicken Pox, you have to be infected with the real disease.

Matthew 5:10

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Key phrase: “for righteousness sake.” You get the resources and power of the Kingdom of heaven when you do right things.
- For example, do not say, “Oh, it’s the devil!” when you are cheating on a test, stealing money from the company or showing up late for work.

Matthew 5:11

¹¹ Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

- “Falsely” - if they are reviling you falsely because you are standing up for Christ, then you will be blessed. If it is true that you are talking about the “good news” when you are the “bad news,” do not rejoice! You brought this on yourself.

Matthew 5:12

¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- You are not exceedingly happy because you are getting persecuted for your faith alone, but rather because you are joining with the prophets who have gone before you.

Matthew 5:13

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

- Lenski, the great commentator, translates this: “You ALONE are the salt of the earth.”

Very familiar term in Jesus' day:

- Salt was used as a preservative and even Magdala (where Mary Magdalene was from) nearby was known for its salt mines and was used exclusively for salting fish. The largest business in that area was salting fish and meat.
- The Salt Sea was nearby and they would haul out huge amounts of salt and pack fish and game in the salt to preserve the meat being sent to Jerusalem and other cities.
- There were no refrigerators or freezers so salt preserved for longer periods of time thus preventing the fish and meat from decaying.
- The obvious meaning is that it is going to rot sooner or later but with salt it takes longer.
- All you chemists, I know what you are thinking—sodium chloride cannot lose its saltiness. But they knew what Jesus was talking about.
- Some salt was mined and was very pure but some had come from the Salt Sea and it had laid out in the sun, been rained upon and it had Bitumen and other chemicals mixed in with it. This salt comes in layers and the top layer, because of the sun and weather, had washed a lot of the sodium chloride away and it became more and more bitter and would lose its flavor. They would take that salt in huge amounts up to the Temple area.
 - In the outer court was the Gentile Area but then there was the Court of Women with four large compartments or rooms.
 - One room was filled with salt. It was a salt that had lost its flavor and it was used to throw in the winter, over the huge slab limestone outdoor rocks that lined the Temple area to melt the snow or ice, trodden under the foot of men.
 - Sometimes they would use that kind of salt up in Galilee to melt the ice or snow. They understood exactly what Jesus was talking about. There was a salt that was just used for throwing

out on walking paths that had no flavor but could be walked upon.

- He was not saying you lost your salvation but you've lost your testimony—you've lost your saltiness, you've lost your witness.

But then there was the good salt, salt that was underneath this old salt and it could be used as a preservative, and for flavoring on food.

- Each month, Roman soldiers received a bag of salt. It was called the “salarium.” It's where we get the word salary.
- This is where we get the phrase “a man worth your salt.”

Take the piece of meat and my seasoning salt and rub it in...

- The salt does not do any good if you put the meat on one shelf and the salt on the other.
- You have to rub the salt into the meat! The Roman soldiers rubbed the salt into a wound or if they shot game, rubbed it into the meat.
- That is what Jesus likes to do with us. He takes us and rubs us into our decaying world we live in.
 - Babies at birth were wrapped in salt in ancient times. Salt kills the bacteria on the skin. It kept diseases at bay to protect the little one.
 - God wants to rub us into our families, our jobs, etc.
 - The reason America is still here—with all of our sin—is because we are here. We are the only preservative in the society.
 - We are the only ones who can bring the truth and rub it into society to preserve it.
 - We are the HOPE of the world—we change lives from the inside out through being salt.

- We alone are the preservative and the seasoning of this world—to pull out, keep and restore all that is good, wholesome, pure and right.
 - Who else will fight for our marriages when everyone else is getting a divorce?
 - Who else will say abortion is wrong?
 - Who else will raise their kids in the ways of God?
 - Who else will fight for all that is still good in our culture?

Matthew 5:14

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

- You alone are the light of the world. The world is a dark place. We alone are the light.
- The north end of the Sea of Galilee was a city on a hill. It was the city of “Safed” on the tallest hill in the area, 3k feet above sea level. They could see it from all over the sea of Galilee. Everyone could see it and get their bearings from that city on that hill.
 - Safed actually means “lookout.” From this lookout you could view the Sea of Galilee and Mt Tabor.
 - The fishermen on the Sea at night could see the lights of Safed.
 - In a storm, it was below the cloud cover, and they could get their bearings off of Safed. From there they could navigate to Capernaum or Tiberius or Decapolis.
 - This world is dark. When you are living in compromise, you lose your bearings, they do not know how to get back.
- Who else will do the right thing? We are the ones who bring navigational principles to live by:
 - We bring kingdom navigation to our courts.
 - We bring kingdom navigation to our families.

- We bring kingdom navigation to our high schools & colleges.

Matthew 5:15

¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

- Even at home. Do we think we can just come home, watch whatever, look at porn? No, Jesus is saying this applies to the house too.
- Outside we are a light on a hill; inside we are a lamp to our kids to our family.
- In the privacy of our home, we are to be the same person we are in public.
- Same light for our children, our grandchildren, our spouse to see it.

When we are living the values of the Kingdom of God three things happen to us:

1. “Blessed” a deep joy. We are living a joyful happy life—we are blessed! When we live the values of the Kingdom, we begin to exhibit the character of the Kingdom.
2. This is the Kingdom Dream, not the American Dream. We go against the grain of society—we are BEING the Kingdom and the world hates this—you will be persecuted!
3. We become salt and light to society—Influencers of the Kingdom of God on earth.

HAPPY...PERSECUTED...INFLUENCERS!!

Matthew 5:16

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- Look at the first word, “Let.”
- Let this mind be in you! Allow it and let it happen. Let it happen. Without you, the Kingdom cannot come in your business.
- BE a witness—let your character shine through. When tragedy comes, guess who is the first person they come to? You, the Jesus freak person.
 - They know. You ARE a witness. Let Christ rub you into your work, your family, your marriage. Allow it to happen!
 - It is not that you should *be* salt and light but you ARE salt; you ARE light. Let it shine.
- Someone was salt in your life! Someone was light in your life! Now, it is your turn to LET God rub you into some people’s lives. LET God use your light to shine.

Let’s take Communion together now

The Road is the “Fellowship of the Joyful, Persecuted, Influencers”

⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

⁸ Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

⁹ He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. ¹⁰ He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

(1 John 2:8-10)

