

**The Sermon on the Mount:
Do You Know Who You Are?**
Matthew 5:13-16

Introduction

This month, we will begin looking at a passage of scripture commonly referred to as: **The Sermon on the Mount** . . .

In this sermon, Jesus lays down principles that His ministry will be based on . . .

Jesus begins by contrasting the ways of man with the ways of God . . .
Matthews 5:3-11

He reminds us in verse 12 that we should expect to be treated as people of God have always been treated . . . in fact, He says rejoice and be exceeding glad!!

Today, we will examine our role in the world, as we ask the question . . .
Do You Know Who You Are?

I believe the church finds itself at a major crossroads . . .

As we talked about last month . . .

- . . . many churches want to be everything but a church . . . today churches are
- . . . businesses
- . . . banks
- . . . day care centers
- . . . political action committees (especially now)

In this political season . . .

churches must be careful not to align with parties or candidates . . .
we must align with godly ideal and principles.

How you vote is a private matter, that you must deal with . . .

but you must not separate yourself from God's Word or His Will
just like Israel, we will have good leaders and bad leaders . . .
but we are still expected to fulfill our purpose . . .

There is a lot of evil in the world . . . and for us to have an impact on it . . .

We must know who we are and what our purpose is . . .

In today's text, Jesus continues to teach us by letting us know both who we are and what our purpose is as we ask the question . . .

Do You Know Who You Are?

I. Ye are the salt of the earth.

- A. In the ancient world, salt had three purposes
 - i. First . . . salt is a preservative

- ii. Second . . . salt was used as a cleanser
- iii. Third . . . salt is a seasoning
- B. Just like salt, we have a purpose in the world
 - i. We are to help keep the world from becoming rotten
 - ii. We are to help clean up the world
 - iii. We are to make the world a better place
- C. But what if the salt loses its savor?
 - i. It is still salt . . . but it is not salty
 - ii. What good is it?
- D. It is the same for Christians . . . what if we don't fulfill our purpose?
 - i. Still saved . . . but what good are you?
 - ii. Still a church member . . . but what good are you?
 - iii. Still God's child . . . but what good are you?
 - iv. Jesus says . . . good for nothing . . . cast out . . . trodden under foot
- E. So, today, if you don't . . . **Know Who You Are** . . . Jesus says . . . **Ye are the salt of the earth.**

II. **Ye are the light of the world.**

- A. John 1:1-5 – In the beginning was the Word . . .
 - i. Jesus came to be the light of the world – John 1:9
 - ii. But the world rejected Him – John 1:10
 - iii. He went back to glory . . . but He left His light in us . . .
- B. He has made us a city on a hill
 - i. He has called us out of darkness . . . – 1 Peter 2:9
 - ii. He has set us up in high places
 - iii. So that we can provide light to everyone that is in darkness
- C. He did it in us . . . but for others
 - i. Just like a candle in a dark place
 - ii. He holds us up to provide light in dark places
 - iii. He holds us up to provide light to everyone that is in the world
- D. So, today, if you don't . . . **Know Who You Are** . . . Jesus says . . . **Ye are the light of the world.**

III. **We have to help others see God.**

- A. Jesus tells us to let our light so shine . . .
 - i. Not just to let it shine . . . but to let it so shine
 - ii. Let it shine according to His Word
 - iii. Let it shine according to His Will
- B. . . . let it shine before men . . .
 - i. Christians should never say, "I don't care what anybody thinks."
 - ii. Jesus left us here to influence the world for good
 - iii. We are supposed to be ambassadors of His light
- C. . . . so that they may see our good works . . .

- i. John 3:19 – This is the record . . .
- ii. Some folks like it dark . . . they don't want their works seen
- iii. If you love Jesus . . . you ought to have some good works . . .
- iv. If you love Him . . . He ought to show up in your life . . .
- v. The songwriter said . . .

If I walk the way He wants me to walk,
(He'll show up in me, He'll show up in me).
If I talk the way God wants me to talk,
(He'll show up in me, He'll show up in me).

If I live the way God wants me to live,
(He'll show up in me, He'll show up in me).
If I do what He wants me to do,
(He'll show up in me, He'll show up in me).

Conclusion

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

In other words, . . . It's not about you . . . and it's not about me . . .
it's all about glorifying our Father which is in heaven . . .

*****Tell the Story*****
(to glorify our Father which is in heaven. . .)

Romans 15:6 – glorify God . . . with one mind . . . and one mouth

Romans 15:9 – glorify God . . . for His mercy