

Living Right: What does it look like?

Matthew 5:13–16



Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.



Matthew 5:13–16

Salt and Light

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Salt and Light

- ▶ A disciple of the kingdom who does not live like a disciple of the kingdom is worth about as much as tasteless salt or invisible light.

Salt and Light

- ▶ We need to live like “salt”
 - Jesus warns us to not lose our saltiness.

Salt and Light

- ▶ Leviticus 2:13 – “Season all your grain offerings with salt. Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings; add salt to all your offerings.”

Salt and Light

- ▶ Colossians 4:6 – *“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”*

Salt and Light

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Salt and Light

- ▶ Jesus warns us not to hide our light
 - A disciple should be as obvious as a city set on a hill
 - According to the Barna Group, “41% of Americans are unable to identify any individual who they consider to be an influential Christian.”

Who Defines It?

- ▶ Romans 10:3 – *“Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness.”*

Who Defines It?

"We are witnessing the development and acceptance of a **new moral code in America**. Mosaics have had little exposure to traditional moral teaching and limited accountability for such behavior. The moral code began to disintegrate when the generation before them – the Baby Busters – pushed the limits that had been challenged by their parents – the Baby Boomers. The result is that without much fanfare or visible leadership, the U.S. has created a moral system based on convenience, feelings, and selfishness. **The consistent deterioration of the Bible as the source of moral truth has led to a nation where people have become independent judges of right and wrong, basing their choices on feelings and circumstances.** It is not likely that America will return to a more traditional moral code until the nation experiences significant pain from its moral choices." (Barna Group)

Good Deeds?

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 - We live our identity!
 - Jesus refers here to more than good deeds; he is interested in good character.

Good Deeds?

Matthew 7:17–20 – “¹⁷ Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.”

Good Deeds?

- ▶ This character comes only by embracing God's righteousness as a gift...

James 2:17-24

“¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. ²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.”

Living it...

- ▶ Live to be salt and light.
 - ▶ God defines righteousness; not us.
 - ▶ Bear the “fruit” of righteousness...
 - Live your identity...
 - Live Right.
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