



Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying... (Matt 5:1-2)

Jesus started his most famous sermon by talking about **the character of a disciple**.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the _____ of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall _____ the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall _____ mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called _____ of God.

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

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in _____, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Influence of a Disciple

When our hearts are aligned with God's heart and our character is bearing fruit that honors God, we'll have an impact on the world around us. Just listen to Matthew 5:13-16:

"You are the _____ of the earth, but if salt has lost its _____, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

"You are the _____ of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let _____ light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give _____ to your Father who is in heaven."

Salt and light. Why salt and light? What does Jesus want us to see? Let's dig in together...





For Class & Family Discussion:

1. Let's think about these first two topics of Jesus' sermon: character and influence. In your own words, what is character? And influence? How are they connected? How does a person's character impact their influence?
2. "You are..." (Matt 5:13). Let's remind ourselves: who is the "you" Jesus is talking to?
3. Let's think about **salt**.
 - Of all the illustrations Jesus could use, why salt? What is salt "good" for? What sort of impact does it have on its surroundings?
 - If salt "loses its taste"... what then? Is Jesus really talking about salt, or something else? How can disciples of Jesus "lose their taste"?
4. Let's think about **light**.
 - Of all the illustrations Jesus could use, why light? When he describes his disciples as "the light of the world," what does he have in mind?
 - In your own words, what does it look like in everyday life to "let your light shine before others"? And what should the goal of a shining disciple always be according to 5:16? Is it sometimes easy to lose sight of that goal? Is there anything we can do to help ourselves remember that goal?
5. Character and influence; salt and light. What do we need to keep in mind this week in order to glorify our Father who is in heaven?