



# 1 Youth Ministry

## Grades 7-12

### September 1, 2022

### You are the Salt of the Earth

#### Midweek Youth

Join us every Wed. from 7-8pm for fellowship and prayer along with lessons applying Biblical principles to your life today and get answers to all your questions.

#### Foster Care Teens Personal Care Items

We are still collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

#### This Week's Bible Verse

#### Matthew 5:3-12

- <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those



### Wednesday Nights at 7:00pm

You have questions? We have answers! Join us for coffee, tea, juice, hot chocolate, and light snacks while we discuss whatever is on your mind in a safe,

relaxed atmosphere.

## EveryWednesdayNight!

### Last Sunday



#### You are the Salt of the Earth

Last Sunday, we started by talking about metaphors and parables. We talked about how Jesus did much of His teaching using metaphors and parables.

We said one reason was to speak in terms His audience could personally identify with. Another reason was because not everyone would understand what He was saying. Jesus did not want passive listeners but rather active followers seeking the truth. The parables and metaphors made His true followers seek answers as to what He was talking about and become more engaged in what He was teaching.

who hunger and thirst  
for righteousness,

for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the  
merciful, for they will be  
shown mercy. <sup>8</sup> Blessed  
are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the  
peacemakers, for they  
will be called children  
of God. <sup>10</sup> Blessed are  
those who are  
persecuted because of  
righteousness, for theirs  
is the kingdom of  
heaven. <sup>11</sup> "Blessed

are you when people  
insult you, persecute  
you and falsely say all  
kinds of evil against  
you because of me.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be  
glad, because great is  
your reward in heaven,  
for in the same way  
they persecuted the  
prophets who were  
before you.

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[Visit our  
website here!](#)

We talked about Jesus' 1st major sermon in **Matthew Chapters 5, 6, & 7** (The Sermon on the Mount) and how this important sermon was the very basis for His Earthly Ministry. It started off with a description of the characteristics of believers in the Kingdom of God. (**The Beatitudes or Blessings**) Then He got right to business in **Verse 13** where He started with a metaphor, of course, to tell His followers, in very few words, exactly who they were and what their purpose was. He said that we are "**The Salt of the Earth**".

We talked about what salt is and what it can be used for such as Preserving Food, Medicine/Healing, and enhancing the flavor of food. We also said that it was very valuable in the 1st century and is also essential to life itself (we literally can't live without it).

A quick Google search showed that there are actually more than 14,000 uses for salt. But, what did Jesus mean by saying that **we ARE** the salt of the earth?

We looked at the characteristics of salt and matched them with characteristics Jesus would want His followers to have. We said that Jesus is essential to life so bringing others to Jesus would make us essential to life. Sharing the most valuable gift of the Gospel with others brings value and purpose to our lives. We bring spiritual and physical healing to our world with God's Word. We preserve life by bringing others to Jesus who gives the gift of eternal life.

But, the most important quality of salt is that it enhances the flavor of food. It doesn't stand out on its own but makes everything it is added to taste better. When you put salt on a piece of steak, nobody ever says "This salt tastes Great!", they say "This steak tastes great!". As Christians, we should enhance the flavor of life of every person we encounter while giving all the glory to God.

We should bring out the best in the people around us. Our friends should be better because we are their friend. Our school or place of work should be better because we are there. Everywhere we go, the atmosphere should change to be more positive because we are there.

Like salt, we should enhance life without over shadowing. Our life should not be self-centered or overwhelmingly all about us. Instead we should always give all the glory to God to show others how awesome He is. All of our choices, actions, and relationships should all reveal the glory of God to others.



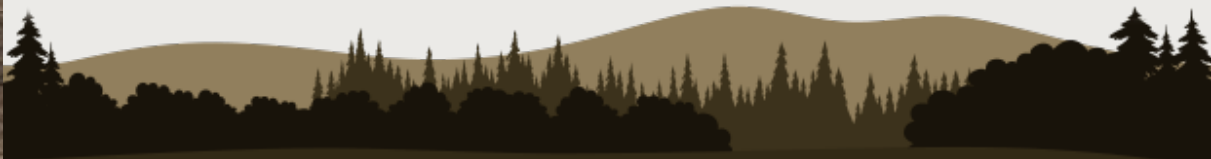
Just as salt makes us thirsty, our lives should make people want to know more about or thirst for Jesus. When people ask why we are kind or generous or how we can be hopeful or at peace during times of stress, sadness, or disappointment, our answer should lead them right to Jesus.

We said to look at our own lives in the context of being the **Salt of the Earth**. Do we bring out the best in others or drag them down with bitterness or negativity? Do people want to know more about Jesus by watching the way that we live our lives? Do we make sure to always give all the glory to God for every good thing to show others how amazing God is?

So, just in the first few words of this most important sermon, after the introduction, Jesus tells us, as His followers, that our purpose is to share the Gospel and the glory of God to make the world a better place.

Jesus also doesn't pull any punches because He immediately tells us, in the next part of the very same verse, that if we're not up to the task or can't handle it (we lose our saltiness or our purpose) then we are as useless as the trash to be thrown away.

He continues in the next verse by telling us that we are **The Light of the World**. We'll look more at that next time. Until then, practice being salt.



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