

## 10/17/04 – “YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH”

Blessings of Beatitudes are about **attitude of heart, not our physical circumstances**...Blessedness a blessed result of first things first

Seek first the kingdom of God & His righteousness & all these **things will be added** – **Things are not to be primary**, but secondary

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”** - Matt. 5:3 - Says we're **blessed when humble**

**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”** – Matthew 5:4 – **Weeping with those that weep** & rejoicing with those who rejoice

**“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”** – Matthew 5:5 - **The powerful may rule the earth** but the meek are going to inherit it

**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”** – Matthew 5:6 – **Satisfaction a byproduct**, not a goal

**“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”** – Matthew 5:7 – Mercy is the bridge we all cross – We **do not earn mercy** but we are to give it

**“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”** – Matthew 5:8 – A genuine relationship does not mean perfect in heart, but **pure in heart**

**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”** – Matthew 5:9 - Cannot let **personal peace** be our highest value

**“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”** – Matthew 5:10-12 – **Jesus' words contradict** our natural understanding of blessedness & happiness

### **WHAT MAKES US HAPPY OR BLESSED?**

What is it that I want? Getting my own way? – Being the boss, popularity, honor, more money? – **Fame, fortune, notoriety?**

**John D. Rockefeller**, Christian millionaire - **“I have made many millions, but they have brought me no happiness. I would barter them all for the days I sat on an office stool in Cleveland and counted myself rich on three dollars a week.”** Broken in health, he employed an armed guard.

**W.H. Vanderbilt**, **“The care of 200 million dollars is too great a load for any brain or back to bear. It is enough to kill anyone. There is no pleasure in it.”**

**Henry Ford**, **“Work is the only pleasure. It is only work that keeps me alive and makes life worth living. I was happier when doing a mechanic's job.”**

**Some think you are spiritual by not having “things,” but real spirituality is “things” not having you!**

**“You are the salt of the earth...”** – Matthew 5:13

In antiquity, salt was a precious commodity...In ancient Greece, slaves were traded for salt – An unruly slave **was not worth his salt**

It just takes a little salt to make us thirsty – It doesn't take a lot of salt to change the taste – **Just a “pinch” here & there**

It **doesn't take a lot of Christians** to change the world...a few disciples, 120 in the upper room, 500 at the Ascension

**Salt is essential to all of life** – It regulates fluid balance & is absolutely necessary for movement, for our nerve impulses, for digestion & healing of wounds

Salt regulates the exchange of water between our cells & our environment, aiding in the absorption of nutrients & the disposal of wastes in our bloodstream

**What would it be like if there were no Christians in the world...not a one? What kind of world would we have? No salt? No Christians?**

### **SO MANY USES FOR SALT**

Amazing & diverse...salt seasons, cures, preserves, seals, cleans, acts as an antiseptic, makes colors brighter, makes ice cream freeze, gets more heat out of boiled water, removes rust, seals cracks, removes spots from clothes, puts out grease fires, kills poison ivy, treats sprains, sore throats, earaches

14,000 different uses for salt – For Christians there are **limitless ways of being used** as salt in this culture...**every day, every hour, every place**

**“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”** – Ephesians 2:10

We are salt & He has prepared us for good works – We are what preserves the world from corruption - **Salt brings taste, preserves & heals**

Every sacrifice in the Old Testament (meal offerings) had salt in it –The salt of the covenant preserves & savors...**salt the opposite of leaven**

Salt is a remedy for unsavory meat – **There is no remedy for unsavory salt – If salt has no flavor it has no value...It is good for nothing any more, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men**” – Matthew 5:13 - Obeying the Beatitudes keeps us savory & useful to God

**“I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”** - Romans 12:1 &2