

11/07/04 – “THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD – BRINGING SIGHT TO THE BLIND”

The eight Beatitudes are the attitudes before Christ by which he calls us “Blessed” – Christians are the salt of Earth and light of world

All the offerings in the O.T. had salt in them (Leviticus 2:13) - In the New Testament, **WE ARE LIVING SACRIFICES** – Romans 12:1

God provides moral and ethical boundaries for our choices – We are called to have quality of character and faith regardless of circumstances

The Apostle Paul was “convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” – Romans 8:38 & 39

No matter “how we feel”, we are the light of the world – There is no other light - Without His church there is no light or salt

“And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” – 1John 1:5-7

WARNING ABOUT PHARISEES

“For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matt. 5:20

Powerful statement because the Pharisees and Sadducees were the respected religious and political leaders of the day

The Sadducees believed only the first five books...The Pentateuch; the Pharisees believed the entire Old Testament and in resurrection of dead

Religious leaders were often hypocritical and demanded others to live by standards that they themselves did not live up to

Believed that salvation was obeying the Law in perfect obedience – Obsessed with legal interpretations and traditions and offered no forgiveness

Desired “to look good” more than obeying God – Relied on their own logic while placing little importance on faith and love

We all have to fight Phariseism...the control of religion...putting expectations on others without requiring the same standards of ourselves

HEALING THE MAN BORN BLIND – John 9

Jesus gives a powerful statement about the Pharisees not entering the kingdom of heaven based on their attitudes – Matthew 5:20

The Pharisees’ had a religious mindset that emphasized “jot and tittle” while missing the greater emphasis of God and His love

Pharisees saw Jesus as a sinner, not the Son of God...Tried to make blind man reject Jesus after he had been healed

The blind man didn’t know whether Jesus was a sinner or a prophet, only knew that he was **BLIND AND NOW COULD SEE!**

Everyone wants to define Jesus for you – I once was lost but now I’m found is a powerful testimony of personal conviction

Blind man kicked out of the synagogue - Have you ever been kicked out of anything because of God? – Blessed are you when you suffer persecution

Jesus knows every situation and will find you...we don’t have to have our act together to be found and ministered to by the Lord

We are all in need – It’s one beggar telling another beggar how to get bread – Martin Luther...takes humility to believe and have right heart

Jesus heals the spiritually blind and gives them sight – Jesus warns that we can have eyes that see not and ears that hear not

It’s not “of ourselves” to be salt & light – The light that we have comes from God – JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

Our good works are to glorify our Father who is in heaven – You are to be salt and light...not the other guy...Praise the Lord!