

Hey guys how is everyone doing? I apologize for the lateness of this letter, my aunt passed away this week and I lost track of time and fell a bit behind but enough on that. I want to start off by congratulating our seniors! It has been a joy in my heart for us all to grow together these last few years, ladies, and we are going to miss you! I pray that you succeed in whatever ventures the Lord has for you! The three graduates are Katie Drallette, Charlize Gibbs, and Makenzy Steele.

This week we are going to be continuing our lesson through the Sermon on the Mount. We have finished the Beatitudes and are moving on to the next part. Now guys, don't separate these verses from the beatitudes. They are basically a continuation of the beatitudes. Our passage this week is Matthew 5:13-16. This is the passage on being salt and light to the world. I am going to breaking this up a bit differently this week but it should still work for you guys.

Ok, so I want you guys to pick up on the first word Matthew says here: "you"

Who is Jesus speaking to when he says "You" here?

What Jesus is telling his disciples in the previous verses, specifically the beatitudes, is that these next verses are the result of living the Christian life.

What were the beatitudes we learned last week?

1-

2-

3-

4-

5-

6-

So, Jesus is taking these verses and explaining to the disciples that living this way will make you salt to the earth.

What would it mean, if I told you that you were salt? what would you think?

In those times salt was used for 5 main things and is still (come up with definitions with the verses provided)

1-purity

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 22:1-23, Colossians 3:1-11

2-perservation

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:13-17, Romans 12:1-2

3-flavor

Romans 12:14-21, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:13-16

4-creation of thirst

Mark 16:15

5-sting in a wound

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:7-12

This creates, with the beatitudes, a picture of a Christ follower that is totally separate from the world. People should be able to see that we are different from them. Look what it says over in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 13-17 even under tough circumstances we are to be different from the world and through this the LIGHT of our heavenly Father will shine through. You guys get that because we are different from the world it will create a light to shine in a world without Christ.

What happens when our light shines?

What is the great commission?

Matthew 28:17-20

Which bring us to our ultimate goal as a follower of Christ which is what?

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:31

So to roll all of these things together, give a summary of what it means and what it looks like to be a follower of Christ.

Thank you all

I hope you have a great week!

In Christ,

Gary Truax