

Huh?

Part Two: *Similitudes*

March 12, 2023

After he gave The Beatitudes, Jesus gave what is commonly referred to as The Similitudes. A similitude or simile is “a comparison between two different things.” We use similes in our stories, illustrations, and jokes to make characters more vivid.

1st - Jesus compared Christians to salt.

Matthew 5:13

The pronoun “You” in verse 13 is emphatic and plural, meaning Jesus is stating a fact that his followers are the salt of the earth.

Why did Jesus call his followers the salt of the earth?

- Christians are valuable like salt.

Salt is valuable for four reasons:

1. Salt seasons.

Salt makes food taste better. Like salt, Christians add flavor to our world.

2. Salt preserves.

People in the first century salted their meat to keep it from decaying. Like salt, Christians stop decay.

3. Salt improves.

Salt is one of the most useful substances on earth! Like salt, Christians make our world a better place.

4. Salt fertilizes.

Salt helps the soil retain water, makes fields easier to plow, releases minerals for plants, kills weeds, protects crops from disease, stimulates growth, and increases yields. Like salt, Christians enrich and stimulate growth.

What warning did Jesus give his followers in verse 13?

- We will lose our value on earth if we contaminate our lives with sin.

Contaminated salt has little value. Likewise, Christians contaminated by sin have little value in our world.

2nd - Jesus compared Christians to light.

Matthew 5:14

Again, the pronoun “You” in verse 14 is emphatic and plural, meaning Jesus is stating a fact that his followers are the light of the world.

Why did Jesus call his followers the light of the world?

- Christians are visible like light.

Christians are visible to the world because God shines His light through those who have Jesus – the True Light (John 1:9) living inside of them (2 Corinthians 4:5-6). Christians can guide people out of darkness and to a right relationship with God because they have experienced the light from the Lord (Eph. 5:7-20; Col. 1:11-13).

What warning did Jesus give his followers in verses 14-16?

- People will remain in darkness if we hide the light from them.

Light helps people see the direction they need to go in. But light must be visible to be useful. Christians must let their good deeds shine out for all to see God. Christians that hide their light are useless - like a candle hidden under a basket (1 Peter 2:9-12).

In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus compares Christians to salt and light. Christ wants us to remember we have great value and visibility in this world. Jesus warns us not to contaminate our lives with sin or hide our light from the lost. As followers of Jesus, we need to make our world a better place and show lost people the joy of living in the Light!

Some Personal Questions...

1. How are you making our world a better place?
2. Do you need to remove a contaminant from your life?
3. How are you showing people Jesus – the True Light?
4. What do you need to do to become more visible in our dark world?