

# NEXT DOOR

## *How Will They Know We're Neighbors?*

### *Matthew 5:1-16*

#### **Jesus Preparing Disciples for Ministry**

**Matthew 5:1-2 (KJV) 1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,**

- Near the end of Matthew 4, Jesus had multitudes of people following Him from many different regions (i.e., Galilee, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond)
- Jesus going up to a mountain was not to get away from the multitudes it was to teach His disciples
- Jesus' teaching was for the *disciples*, not the multitudes
- Seeing the multitudes, Jesus was moved with compassion over their needs
- Jesus knew He could not teach the multitudes by Himself, which why He wanted to get with the disciples to prepare them for ministry to the multitudes
- Jesus shows us two ingredients for reaching the multitudes
  1. Compassion – being moved to action by the needs of others
  2. Discipleship – Training others to do the work of ministry
- Fulfilling the Great Commission is to reach people by making disciples **Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV) 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

#### **The Beattitudes**

**3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.**

- In Jesus teaching, He introduces a well-known passage of Scripture called the Beatitudes
- Beatitude literally means happy
- The Beatitudes speak of the character or attitudes that believers *have* or are *learning*
- Jesus say His disciples or followers are blessed because they have chosen to rely on God and their *actions* prove it
- Jesus says, Blessed are:
  - *the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
    - We acknowledge our helplessness before God and our lack of superiority before others
    - The reward is the gift of eternal life in the kingdom of heaven
  - *they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

# NEXT DOOR

## *How Will They Know We're Neighbors?*

### *Matthew 5:1-16*

- It the believer that is sorry for their sins but is also sorry for the suffering, problems and sins of others
- They that mourn have a genuine concern for the condition of lost people
- The reward is we will be comforted by Jesus Himself
- *the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*
  - The meek are believers who strong yet teachable
  - The meek are humble, not prideful
  - The meek shall inherit the earth
- *they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*
  - It is a hunger and thirst to *be* and to *do* righteousness
  - It's righteous living before God and people
  - Jesus promises that the hungry shall be filled with the fruits of righteousness  
***Philippians 1:11 (NLT) 11 May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.***
- *the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*
  - The merciful have a forgiving spirit and a compassionate heart
  - The merciful can *show* mercy to others because they have *received* mercy.
  - The reward is mercy when you need it
- *the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*
  - The believer with a clean heart lives a clean life
  - They are not distracted by the things of the world
  - The believer with a pure heart has pure motives
  - The reward is they shall see God face to face
- *the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*
  - A peacemaker is a believer that strives to make with God by overcoming inner struggles between good and evil
  - A peacemaker strives to make peace *with* others to resolve an struggles, tension, and problems
  - A peacemaker strives to bring people to the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ
  - The peacemaker is rewarded by being recognized as the children of God
- *they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*
  - Blessed are they who endure suffering for Jeus' sake
  - When you live and speak for Jesus, you'll often be persecuted
  - Your Christian life may often cause a reaction in people
  - You may be persecuted on earth, but great is your reward in heaven

#### ***You Are The Salt of the Earth and The Light of the World***

***Matthew 5:13-14 (KJV) 13 **Ye are the salt of the earth: ....** 14 **Ye are the light of the world.*****

- Jesus continues His Sermon on the Mount and tells the disciples gathered they are two things, they are:

# NEXT DOOR

## *How Will They Know We're Neighbors?*

### *Matthew 5:1-16*

1. The *salt* of the earth
  2. The *light* of the world
- Jesus didn't say believers are "to become" the salt of the earth and light of the world, Jesus said we are
  - In Jesus' day, salt had several characteristics:
    - Salt was *precious* and was used as a form of currency
    - Like salt, believers are precious, valuable and capable of meeting the needs of people around us
    - Salt *preserves*
    - Believers are to be like salt and have a preserving influence in the earth
    - Salt adds *flavor* to anything it's applied to
    - Believers are to add a distinctive flavor to the world
    - Salt creates a *thirst*
    - As believers, our lives should be making those around us *thirsty* for the living water of Jesus Christ
  - Jesus says we are the light of the world
  - We are both *light receivers* and light givers
  - Light has several characteristics:
    - Light *penetrates* - it cuts through and eliminates the darkness **1 Thessalonians 5:5 (NLT) <sup>5</sup> For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night.**
    - Light *reveals* – it opens up the truth in an area **John 12:36 (NLT) 36 "Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light...."**
    - Light *guides* - it provides direction and leads us on the right path **John 12:46 (NLT) 46 I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.**
    - Light *protects* – it protects us from the dangers of darkness, i.e., stumbling and falling **Romans 13:12 (NLT) 12 The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living.**
    - Light *warns* – it warns us of the dangers that lie ahead **Ephesians 5:11 (NLT) 11 Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them.**
  - Our mission as believers is *to shine* in the world
  - We are to reflect the image of Christ in the world
  - When we live for Jesus, we shine like lights in a dark world showing them what Jesus is like
  - God anointed us to be a *visible difference* in this world
  - There is no *other* light; we are all the light world has!
  - We are placed in the world where our influence can be best used and felt
  - Every community, city, state, nation, and the world is to be illuminated by *the light* of believers **Acts 13:47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.**
  - Jesus calls us the salt of the earth and the light of the world because the world Jesus saw then and the world, we see now is corrupt and full of the darkness of sin

# NEXT DOOR

## *How Will They Know We're Neighbors?*

### *Matthew 5:1-16*

- Notice Jesus says ye are the salt of the earth and ye are the light of the world; ye here is not *you*, but *you all*
- It's only when the church functions as a *collective body* will there be enough salt to arrest the spiritual decay and enough light to help those living in spiritual darkness to see there is a better way to live
- We can do it because we are *the* salt of the earth and *the* light of the world
- We can do it because as salt and light, we are *distinctive* from the world

#### ***The Danger of Not Being Salt and Light***

***Matthew 5:13-16 (KJV) 13 "... but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. .... 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. "***

- Jesus says we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world
- With this *great responsibility* there is also a *great risk*
- The great risk is not being who Jesus says we are
- Jesus says, "what good is salt if the salt has no flavor?"
- The salt could be so contaminated, they could just throw it away in a field because it would kill their crops
- We can lose our *saltiness*, our flavor when our lives are mixed and mingled with the world
- Jesus says we're good for nothing because we've lost our value as salt
- When we lose our saltiness, we can't *be* who Jesus says we are
- Light is also at risk of becoming useless
- A hidden light is still light, but a useless light
- When we hide our light, we're being unfaithful to God
- Our light is to always shine brightly, because a "dim light" can still cause those around us to stumble

#### ***Let Your Light Shine!***

***16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.***

- Jesus is saying I give you permission and authority to represent Him in the world
- 
- We are not to refuse to let His light shine, turn it off when convenient, darken it, shade it, or turn His light on ourselves
- The purpose of letting our light shine is two-fold:
  - 1. Let our good works be seen.
  - 2. Let our light shine to stir people to glorify God.
- God is glorified when we as believers go out into the dark world where the men/women are
- The good works are to be done in the dark world, not only among other "lights"
- We are not the only ones who can glorify God, but if we do our part as lights, we can cause those who sit in darkness to be drawn to His light and glorify Him
- This lesson shows the powerful effect believers can have on our neighbors