**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (2)**

**MATTHEW 5: 13-16**

**INTRODUCTION**

 **What constitutes a “good” work? What does it mean to “glorify” God?**

**(Matthew 5:16)**

**Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**

**The “poor in spirit” recognize their sinfulness and unworthiness before God.**

**Such are “blessed” as God smiles on them and their blessing is entrance into the “kingdom of heaven” where God reigns, His will being done.**

**Such “kingdom people” (ourselves) are saddened by sin, are meek and merciful, and are pure in heart and hunger after righteousness.**

**And all of this is God’s doing, His work in us.**

**WE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH (v.13)**

**“You (!) are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”**

**Salt has many uses:**

1. **In a world without refrigerators it can be used a a preservative**
2. **Salt seasons; it brings out flavor**
3. **Salt can be used as a fertilizer**

**“Salt that has lost its saltiness” could stand for Christians who have been co-opted by the world. We are to be in the world but not of the world. (Solomon’s later life compared to his early life)**

**WE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (vv.14,15)**

**“You (!) are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its lampstand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.”**

**Light ‘dispels’ darkness.**

**Jesus IS the true light of the world. (John 1:9)(John 8:12)**

**We are the light (He is the sun; we are the moon.)**

**KINGDOM PEOPLE DO GOOD WORKS (v.16a)**

**“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works…”**

**Light is not meant to be hidden. (No place for ‘holy huddles’.)**

**Good works (deeds) are NOT:**

1. **for the purpose of gaining salvation, but as a result of salvation**

 **(Ephesians 2:8-10)**

1. **for personal gain (eg. To feel good, to receive the praise of others)**
2. **done in our own strength but in God’s (Holy Spirit produced)**

**Good (Greek,‘kalos’) means morally good,and good in appearance and attractiveness, winsome.**

**Good works are done for the right motives: obedience, gratitude, to glorify God.**

**One definition of GOOD WORKS: “All righteousness, everything we are and do that reflects the mind and will of God”**

**Examples:**

1. **Simple acts of love and caring (Matthew 25:34-36)**
2. **Servant minded behavior (John 13:12-14)**
3. **A righteous fruit bearing life. (John 15:8)**
4. **A life lived according to Kingdom norms**

**GOOD NEWS: All of this is within the possibility of every Christian life!**

**GOOD WORKS SEEN, GLORIFY OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN (v.16b)**

**“...that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”**

**When people see our “good works” God is glorified.**

**Glory is essential to God. If no man were ever created, if no angel were ever created, God would still be a God of glory.**

**Glory (Greek, ‘doxa’) speaks to God’s greatness of character, beauty, and perfections.**

**God displays of His glory are many.**

1. **His creative power in Creation (Psalm 19:1)**
2. **His holiness displayed in His laws and Kingdom values**
3. **His justice, meted out at the cross**
4. **His mercy and redemptive love expressed at the cross**

**“The glory we give God is nothing else but lifting His name in the world, and magnifying Him in the eyes of others.”**

**Therefore, “we don’t add to His glory, but we give testimony to His glory. That is, we recognize it and acknowledge it.”**

**THE GREATEST, HIGHEST PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES**

**That purpose: to glorify God, our heavenly Father, as we bless others by our “good works” and prompt them to glorify Him.**