

## A Community as Witness

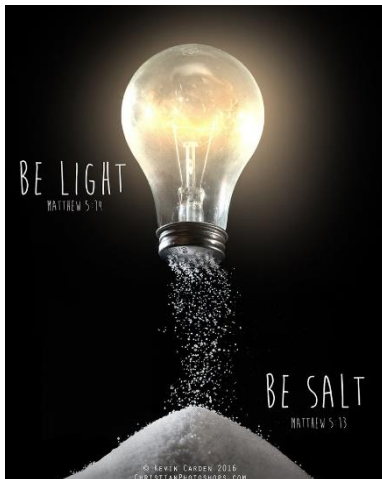
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The Sermon on the Mount reveals who Jesus is, his mission, and his transformative vision for life. Jesus presents an "upside-down" (or rather "right-side up") way of living for those under his coming reign—the ones who pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."

1. **God's Agenda:** Jesus outlines God's agenda—what it means to live in step with Him. These are the attitudes, characteristics, and lifestyles of disciples, who first were *called* but now *come* to learn from Him.
2. **A True Human Life:** This is what a genuine Christian life looks like—aligned with God's character, intentions, and purposes. It's a life "in sync" with Heaven.



Read Matthew 5. 13-16



**"You are the salt of the earth"**

How can we preserve, flavour, or enhance the world around us? What are practical ways to avoid "losing our saltiness"?

**"You are the light of the world"**

How does being the "light" influence the way we live, the way we do church?

**"A city on a hill cannot be hidden"**

In what ways are we visible as a church, and in what ways do we sometimes hide our light?

Read Luke 8. 26-39

This is the story of Jesus healing the demon-possessed man in the region of the Gerasenes. Think about Jesus' authority over evil, the reaction of the townspeople, the transformation of the man and his sending back to his people ...

1. **Jesus' Authority Over Evil:** How does this passage demonstrate Jesus' power over spiritual forces and evil? How does this shape your understanding of His authority in your own life?
2. **The Reaction of the Townspeople:** Why do you think the people reacted with fear and asked Jesus to leave after witnessing the healing? What does this tell us about the cost or discomfort that can come with Jesus' transformative power?

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3. **The Man's Transformation:** What does the dramatic change in the man's life (from being possessed to sitting at Jesus' feet, clothed and in his right mind) teach us about the power of Jesus to restore? How can this encourage us when we face personal struggles?
4. **Jesus Sends the Man Back Home:** Why do you think Jesus sent the healed man back to his home to share his story rather than letting him follow? How does this challenge us to witness to those around us about how God has worked in our lives?

For this coming week:

The man was eager to tell others what Jesus had done for him.

**What are some specific ways we can share our own testimonies of how Jesus has freed or healed us, even if it feels uncomfortable or risky?**

Prayer

Thank You for the gift of salvation and the work You have done in my life through Jesus. I am grateful for Your love, grace, and mercy. Give me the courage and boldness to share my faith with those I meet regularly. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, so that I may share your reality with confidence and compassion.



**Community  
as Witness**

*Welcome*

**Sunday 13th October 2024**



*Community*