

Matthew 5:13 (NLT) – *"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless."*

- 6) What does it mean to be the "salt of the earth"?
- 7) How does the idea of "losing saltiness" challenge you personally?

Matthew 5:14–16 (NLT) – *"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."*

- 8) How do you see your life as an invitation for others to know Him?
- 9) Living on mission means God wants to work through us. What's one area of your life right now where you sense He is calling you to partner with Him?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Where am I leaning more toward friendship with God but resisting partnership with Him?
- 2) Who in my life needs to experience the "salt" and "light" of Jesus through me this week?
- 3) Pray: "Lord, thank You for inviting me into both friendship and partnership with You. Show me today how to live on mission."

The Simple Gospel

How do we live it?

Pastor Craig Sweeney | September 28, 2025

"God blesses"

Thread: Do you know what God is prepared to do?

"God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs." **Matthew 5:10 NLT**

"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way." **Matthew 5:11-12 NLT**

Who are the prophets?

- BRIGHT lights from the past.
- You aren't who the mockers say you are.

"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless." **Matthew 5:13 NLT**

"Salt of the earth"

- You are meant to be experienced by others.
- Enhances the flavor already present.
- YOU are meant to draw out the potential God has placed within others.

"...if it has lost its flavor"

- Jesus is literally saying that's unnatural.
- Why wouldn't you be SALTY? (Incredible things happen when you are)
- What do you need to do or think about differently so you can be "salt" for others' sake?

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." **Matthew 5:14-16 NLT**

"You are the light of the world."

Light is:

- Safety
- Comfort
- Direction
- Refuge
- A place to stay

What do you need to do or think about differently so you can be "light" for others' sake?

Challenges:

- Do you know what God is prepared to do for you? He wants to bless you.
- What do you need to do or think about differently so you can be "salt" for others' sake?
- What do you need to do or think about differently so you can be "light" for others' sake?

Simple Gospel

Fall 2025 | Week 3

Message Date 9/28/2025

MY STORY

- 1) When has living out your faith made you feel "different" from the world around you?
- 2) If you had to replace your car horn with any sound effect (cartoon noise, animal sound, song clip, etc.), what would it be?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 5:10–12 (NLT) – *"God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way."*

- 4) Why does Jesus say we are blessed when we are persecuted for doing right?
- 5) What does the example of the prophets teach us about friendship with God and partnership with Him in His mission?