

DON'T LOSE: YOUR SAVOR FOR THE SAVIOR

THESIS: Salt And Shine

TEXT: Matthew 5:9-16

OPEN: "Five Southern Pearls of Wisdom" by Anonymous

1. Help a man when he is in trouble, and he will remember you when he is in trouble again.
2. Some people are still in your sphere because there's no such thing as magic to make them disappear.
3. If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you might as well make it dance.
4. Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday.
5. Money cannot buy happiness, but it is more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes Benz than on a bicycle.

In **Matthew 5** let's discover how to "season" society with the salt of Scripture to make a positive impact for Christ.

1. SALT AND SHINE SOCIETY FOR THE GLORY OF GOD OUR SAVIOR.

A. **Matthew 5:9** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."

1. *Honor the Lord by savoring peace and pursuing it.*

a. **Romans 12:18** "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

1. Peaceful words

a. **Proverbs 15:1** "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

1. **Illustration:** A Husband & Wife's "Barnyard" Conversation

A married couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument. Neither wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs, the wife sarcastically asked, "Relatives of yours?" "Yep," the husband replied, "in-laws."

2. Peaceful works

a. **Matthew 7:12** "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you."

2. The peacemaker blessing is that you will be called "sons of God"—you're acknowledged as being like your Heavenly Father. **Son** (Greek: *huios*) means descendant; one of a class or kind.

a. **Psalms 37:37** "Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a future for the man of peace."

3. **Illustration:** A "Peeling" For Peace—Story Of Reconciling A Property Line Dispute

Before I became a preaching minister, I attended Fairlawn Church of Christ in Galax, Va., located near the Blue Ridge Parkway. My former home church preacher there told me a story once about two prominent families in the congregation who ended up in a dispute over property lines and a water well. Being that Fairlawn was a small rural community, pretty much everybody in the church was related to somebody involved in the argument. It threatened the unity of the congregation and their witness for the Lord. The grand matriarch of the Cooley family Eula decided she would pick a bushel of apples and knock on the door of the Bryant family grand matriarch whose name was Trusty. Eula said to Trusty, "I want to give these to you." Trusty said, "Thank you, Eula, that's

very nice of you.” Eula said, “Why don’t we sit down and peel them together.” Trusty invited her in and in a couple of hours these fine old friends peeled away the issues until they got to the core of the problem and settled the matter. Yes, by the time the apples were peeled the whole dispute was settled for the sake of Christ. Now that’s a “peeling for peace” isn’t it?

B. **Matthew 5:10-12** “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. ¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in Heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

1. *Honor the Lord by savoring righteousness and rejoicing in it.*

a. **Hebrews 5:13b-14** “(Teaching about righteousness) is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

2. The righteousness blessing is that yours will be the great reward of the kingdom of Heaven.

a. **2 Timothy 4:7-8** “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.”

1. **Righteousness** (Greek: *dikaiousune*) is the character or quality of being just or correct. The reward or “crown” is being eternally righteous, sinless, perfect, and thus face-to-face in the presence of God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ forever and ever.

a. **2 Peter 3:13** “...in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.”

b. **Revelation 22:3-4a** “No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will serve Him. They will see His face...”

3. **Illustration: Einstein’s “Theory of Happiness” Sells for \$1.56 Million**

By *breitbart.com* (10/25/17)

A note that Albert Einstein gave to a courier in Tokyo describing his theory on happy living sold at auction in Jerusalem in 2017 for \$1.56 million. The winning bid for the note far exceeded the pre-auction estimated price of between \$5,000 and \$8,000. The buyer was a European who wished to remain anonymous. The seller said, “I am really happy that there are people out there who are still interested in science and history and timeless deliveries in a world which is developing so fast.” The note, on the stationery of the Imperial Hotel Tokyo, says in German that “a quiet and modest life brings more joy than a pursuit of success bound with constant unrest.” A second Einstein note written at the same time that simply reads “where there’s a will, there’s a way” sold for \$240,000.

C. **Matthew 5:13-16** “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 by men. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.”

1. *Honor the Lord by savoring good deeds and the praise of God for it.*

- a. **Historical:** Being possessed of purifying, perpetuating and antiseptic qualities, salt became emblematic of fidelity and spiritual health essential to Christian virtue and counteractive of the corruption that is in the world (*Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and NT Words*, p. 315).
 1. **1 Peter 2:12** "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us."
- b. **Insight Craig L. Blomberg On Christians Permeating Society** (*NAC, Matthew*, p. 102-103).

"In Matthew 5:16-18 Jesus proclaims that Christians must permeate society as agents of redemption. Of the numerous things to which salt could refer in antiquity, its use as a preservative in food was probably its most basic function. Jesus thus calls His followers to arrest corruption and prevent moral decay in their world...Like lights from a city illuminating the dark countryside or a lamp inside a house providing light for all within it, Christians must let their good works shine before the rest of the world so that others may praise God...We are not called to control secular power structures; neither are we promised that we can Christianize the legislation and values of the world, but we must remain active preservative agents, indeed irritants, in calling the world to heed God's standards. We dare not form isolated Christian enclaves to which the world pays no attention" (*New American Commentary, Matthew*, p. 102).

CLOSE: Don't lose your "saltiness"—your savor for the Savior—shine society with the glory of God.