

+ *A Salt and Light in the World* + (The Sermon on the Mount)

The Enfleshed Community of Salt and Light

Session 2 • Sunday, January 13, 2019

I. Matthew 5:13-14. The enfleshed community of salt and light.

A. Salt has positive associations in the Old Testament.

1. Preservative. A necessary ingredient in sacrifices. It symbolized the durative nature of the covenant (Leviticus 2:13).
2. “Salty living,” as Luther said, means being everything described in the Beatitudes.
3. Salt placed on the infant’s lips at baptism. *Let your salt so tasted become for the world the saltiness of Christ.*
4. When salt has lost its seasoning/preserving capacity, then what good is it?

B. You are the light of the world.

1. Isaiah 42:6-7. A light to the nations.
2. 1 John 1:7. Walk in the light, as Christ himself is the light.
3. Such light cannot be invisible, it cannot be hidden, it is a city on a hill.
4. People are not to see the disciples but their good works. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
5. So get it on the lampstand for all the world to see.

II. Matthew 5:21-26. A teaching about an inner disposition of the heart.
But I say unto you...

A. Genesis 4:5-8. Cain and Abel. Anger can murder.

1. Slow to anger (Proverbs 14:29). Controlled anger (Psalm 37:8). Short-lived anger (Ephesians 4:26).
2. Anger reconciled. We are called as a the light, not to reenergize anger, but to forgive out of grace, come to terms quickly with your accuser.

III. Matthew 5:43-48. Love your enemies.

A. The Hebrews would have Deuteronomy 7:6-8 (*God has chosen you out of all the peoples*) playing deeply. (See also Leviticus 19:17-18).

1. This teaching does not have a universal love application to stranger, sojourner, or enemy, even as it is in the text. (Leviticus 19:34).

B. The *But I say unto you...* has a much larger impression.

1. To pray for enemies and those who persecute you. Beyond clan, friend, or even stranger, enemy.
2. *If you love those who love you* = the radicality of love espoused.
3. “We are not to imagine that this is to condone the enemy’s evil. Such love proceeds from strength rather than weakness, from truth rather than fear.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
4. Again, such love, as salt and light, takes us along the path of witness, servanthood, and compassion.