

Salt And Light
Matthew 5:1-16
Key Verse: 5:13a,14a

1. (Review Mt 4:16-18 to get a glimpse of the times and of what Jesus had been doing) Read 5:13-16. In what way should disciples of Jesus be different? Read 5:1-2. Where were Jesus and his new disciples? To whom did he address his teaching?
2. Read verse 3. What does it mean to be poor in spirit? In what sense was Jesus himself "poor in spirit?" (Php 2:6-8) What is the blessing given the poor in spirit? What does this mean?
3. Read verse 4. When and why did Jesus mourn? (Lk 19:41; Jn 11:33-35) Why and how should we mourn? (2Cor 7:10) What is the blessing given to those who mourn? What does this mean? (Ps 32:3-5) (2Cor 1:3-6) Read verse 5. What does it mean to be meek? (Mt 5:39-41) In what sense was Jesus meek? (Mt 11:29KJV) What reward is given the meek? Can you think of any other meek people in Scripture?
4. Read verse 6. (Ps 107:9) What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness? (Jn 4:7, 13-15) When did Jesus hunger and thirst for righteousness? (Mk 15:34) When we thirst for God, how may we be filled? (Ro 3:20-22) Read verse 7. What does it mean to be merciful? To show mercy? What was Jesus' experience? (Jn 21:12, 17)
5. Read verse 8. What blessing is given to the pure in heart? How can we be pure in heart? (1Jn 1:7) How can we see God? Read verse 9. What is the blessing given the peacemakers? In what sense was Jesus a peacemaker? Ro 5:1) How can we be peacemakers? (2Cor 5:18-21)
6. Read verses 10-12. Compare with verse 3. Why do those persecuted for righteousness have the same blessing as the poor in spirit? What does it mean to be given the kingdom? (Mt 6:33)
7. What is Jesus' direction for his disciples in verses 13-16. What does this mean? What can we learn from each of the beatitudes about the character of Jesus? How can we grow in the character of Christ and be salty salt and light on a stand in the world? (Mt 4:15,19; Jn1:12,13; Mt 28:20) (1Jn 1:5-10)