



The Common Thread: "Matthew, Really?"

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True or not true, things just aren't ever going to be the same?

When Christ came and began to teach, the inherent struggle was to understand the gospel message against the background and backdrop of an unsettled culture.

Clearly the world in which Christ spread the new message of the kingdom was a mirror image of type of culture we live in today.

We see the rise of the character of Christ when the culture values surrounding Him were not at all congruent to the message He was to deliver and live.

The kingdom looked one way but for Him the kingdom was to display love one to another.

The Kingdom Jesus spoke about was in complete juxtaposition to the kingdom that was present.

This was the Messiah's message, the Savior of the world, The King we have waited for for so long, the fulfiller of law, the One who is to set us free, and this is his stump speech? Really!

Matthew 5:3-10 NLT - 3 "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. 4 God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. 6 God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. 7 God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. 9 God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. 10 God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

SALT - LIGHT - GIVERS

Matthew 5:13-15 NLT - 13 "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. 14 "You are the light of the world--like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 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.

Matthew 6:1-4 NLT - 1 "Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. 2 When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do--blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. 3 But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. 4 Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

So the question for us today becomes, will we be able to cultivate these Christlike characteristics in our lives as the perpetuators and the spreaders and livers of his Kingdom message?