

The Life of Christ

Salt and Light

Matthew 5:13-16

What is the significance of this saying to the historical audience? To us?

At what point do humans become salt and light? To what purpose?

How do we apply this passage?

Jesus to Fulfill the Law

Matthew 5:17-20

17-18 Immutability of Scripture!

19 Do we follow the Law of Moses?

Genesis 3:16-19, 9:1-17, Exodus 19:1-8

Does this discourse (and to follow) pertain to us?

It Does! Because the Law taught righteous behavior, and Jesus will next expound that very aspect of the Law.

20 What???

Not more of what the Scribes and Pharisees were doing is required, but actual righteousness is required. This passage segues from the divine authority of the Law to a new understanding of the requirements of actual righteousness.

Note that Jesus isn't addressing salvation directly:

1. How they should be living – attitude and action
2. He's showing them their guilt – necessary for repentance and for knowledge of the need for redemption.
3. This whole next discourse is about people living with each other – enemies, adultery, brothers, neighbors
4. Whenever in the next section Jesus says, "You have heard it said," this is Scripture – they heard it said because it is what the Scribes and Pharisees were teaching them. This is why Jesus first had to maintain his support for the Law – He's not contradicting, he's clarifying.

Personal Relationships

Matthew 5:21-32

vv 21-26 Murder = Hatred

21-22 Exodus 20 >> Murder judged by Sanhedrin,
vain/good-for-nothing = contemptible,
raku = fool carried heavy malice in culture

23-24 Selling indulgences? Coming to church, prayer, support with unresolved anger?

25-26 De-escalation, turn the other cheek, show the love of Christ, don't add to conflict!

Study, Obey, Teach – Ezra 7:10 *For Ezra had set his heart to SEEK the law of Jehovah, and to DO it, and to TEACH in Israel statutes and ordinances. (ASV)*