**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY— SESSION 3**

**SERMON ON THE MOUNT  
Homework for Matthew 5:13-16 — Salt & Light, So the World May See   
SYS 10/09/24 EWH 10/16/24**

READING Matthew 5:13-16.  
  
REVIEW & INTRODUCTION   
  
The Beatitudes describe the Christian's character or *who the Christian is*. They are not attributes of our natural personalities. Rather, the Beatitudes describe the transforming work of the Holy Spirit as the believer yields to Him.

Following Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:3-12, this new section teaches *how the Christian should be*. In other words, moving from character to function, we should now understand how the Christian's character will manifest itself in the world.  
  
QUESTIONS

1. Reread Matthew 5:3-10. Then read the following verses through 5:16. There is a shift to *whom* Jesus is talking. Do you see the change? Explain.

2. The context of Matthew 5:13 speaks to the preserving, purifying, and influencing effect of salt. What does Jesus' statement, "You are the salt of the earth," imply about the earth (meaning humanity)? Who does the preserving? What, then, is the relationship of the Christian to the world around him?

3. Explain how the following verses relate to Christians and the purifying aspect of salt:  
  
 > Ephesians 4:29-31  
  
 > Philippians 4:8-9  
  
 > Colossians 4:5-6  
  
4. The Greek word for "tasteless" (NASB) or "lost its taste" (ESV) in verse 13 is *moraino*. It means to make flat or foolish. Salt actually cannot lose its saltiness, but it can become adulterated (or contaminated) when mixed with other minerals, making it useless. What things can diminish or destroy a Christian's preserving influence on the world around him?   
  
5. The world is in a state of darkness, though most people don't realize it. Can you locate verses in the New Testament that confirm this?  
  
6. Jesus said He is the Light of the world while at the same time saying that we are the light of the world. This is because true believers have kingdom life within them (the characteristics of the Beatitudes). Use the following Scripture references to explain this: Ephesians 5:7-16; Philippians 2:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8; 1 Peter 2:9-10.

7. Look carefully at Matthew 5:14-16 again. Since Jesus calls Christians the light of the world, what are the three things He says that light should do?  
  
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8. Since who we are must precede what we do, where should our focus be to ensure our light will shine brightly before the world?