What is the message of your life? (Matt. 5:13-20)
Series: Lessons from the Sermon on the Mount

➤ Intro:
- Matt. 5:13-20 Sermon on the Mount, after Beatitudes, following the blessings associated w/ persecution
- Christians: salt, light, teach

➤ You are the salt of the earth!
- Matt. 5:13 salt of the earth

➤ - salt:
- What is the purpose of salt?
  - make taste better: brings out flavor (positive)
    - illus.: leftover corn of the cob, salted, made taste better - say, “corn good” not “salt good”
  - preserve: keep from spoiling without refrigeration
    - illus.: Dad, kid working on grandfather’s farm, go out to smoke house and get meat
- What can be done if salt loses its saltiness (savor)?
  - nothing: throw it out (Jesus, His day, throw in street where it couldn’t harm anything else, e.g., farmland)

➤ - Christians:
- Col. 4:6 speech, grace, like salt, make God’s word, commands, obedience, taste better (more palatable)
  - actions / behavior (tongue, relationships, good neighbor): attracts people to Christ, makes it easier to obey and be saved
    - illus.: like show and tell — show first, tell second — more apt to listen after see that we live it
  - illus. salt on corn (above): make God, word, commands, gospel message, more palatable (taste good)
    - we are the salt, makes living here better through Christ, makes His message more savory
    - therefore, we also preserve the earth: that some come to God and be saved

➤ - Heb. 6:4-6 if we fall away, lose our saltiness (godly influence), we can’t help ourselves or anyone else
  - self, family, friends, brethren
- What do Christians preserve upon the earth?
  - 1 Tim. 3:15 truth, God’s word (Jn. 17:17)
  - Col. 4:6
    - therefore, all things good, spiritual
    - therefore, perhaps the physical earth itself - e.g., days of Noah
You are the light of the world! — illus. Mount of Beatitudes
- Matt. 5:14-16 light of the world — like city can’t hide, like lamp on lampstand

- light:
  - What is light? (HowStuffWorks.com)
    - it’s a particle or wave
      - ancient Greeks believed light was made up of particles (particle theory, photons)
      - Einstein theorized light was made up of a steam of energy packets called photons
      - modern physicists believe that light can behave as both a particle and a wave
    - a beam of light radiates outward
      - illus.: city on hill, seen from all sides, not hid from any perspective (Matt. 5:14)
      - illus.: lamp on lampstand so that everything around it illuminated (Matt. 5:15)
      - illus.: sun, light emanates every direction from the sun
        - Matt. 13:43 (Jesus, parable of the tares) “Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”
    - illus.: lighthouse that illuminates 360° (pict)

- Christians — purpose of spiritual light:
  - light the path to God (Jesus):
    - Jn. 8:12; 12:46 we’re light by following Jesus, believing Him, not remain in darkness
      - Jn. 1:4 because Jesus is Light
      - Jn. 14:6 Jesus is the way, the truth, the life
    - Acts 13:47 Paul, we are lights when we share the gospel with others — character, conduct, example, in word and deed
      - Ps. 119:105 (David) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
    - illus.: Scott scare Jerry Flatt, came out of bathroom, couldn’t see, swung — without light, not know truth, Scott play joke
    - illus.: boy, got up in middle of night, slept in living room, dark, couldn’t find light switch or way out of room — without light not know way to go
  - expose sin (darkness):
    - Eph. 5:7-14 expose darkness by not participating in evil
      - illus.: when you come out of the bathroom, turn on the hall light if Scott Flatt is around — expose darkness, see Scott
      - illus.: if you’re sleeping in a unfamiliar place, know where the light switch is or use a night light — expose darkness, see how to get around
  - result: men see good works and glorify God
    - Matt. 5:16

Your life is a message! — you teach others in everything you do
- Matt. 5:17-20 your life teaches something — as Christian you . . .
  - can’t be like the religious hypocrites of Jesus’ day
  - harsh punishment for teach sin through your life
- As a faithful Christian, you are exposing darkness and lighting the path to God (eternal life)?
  - illus.: Ye Are The Light Of The World (#453)
What is the message of your life? — summary / inv.

- As a **faithful Christian**, you reveal darkness and light the path to God (eternal life) — purpose in life
  - yes, if you are following Jesus (Jn. 8:12)
  - no, if you are not following Jesus (Jn. 8:12)

- **inv.:** saying: without physical light you’ll die physically / without spiritual light you’ll die spiritually
  - **Rev. 22:1-5** heaven, neither night nor sun, Lord illumine us for eternity
  - become light today, live in the city of light for eternity