



Influential Difference

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-20

The charge for those who are blessed: to exhibit the _____ of God's kingdom and to let God's _____ shine through them.

Jesus' challenge comes down to one word, _____.

The influence of our lives is directly related to our _____ and _____.

The primary function of **Salt** is to _____ decay. (v13)

- By consistently and actively _____ out our faith, we provide a _____ influence.

The primary function of **Light** is to _____ what darkness _____. (v14)

- That means wherever you are, _____.

The gospel _____ salt and light, not the other way around!

If we focus on the Gospel. If we focus on the New Birth, then God will produce people who live the Beatitudes and live like salt and light, and as the church collectively adheres to the Gospel, there is an influential difference from the world around us.

vv17-20: Jesus agrees with and lives according to the Law & Prophets.

Start talking.

- When you want to get away, where do you go and what do you do?
- What saying or bumper sticker would you keep on your desk or car?

Start thinking.

- How do the eight qualities that describe kingdom people relate to the promises that follow them? How do they relate to each other? How would you describe the opposite of each quality?
- Are the promises each separate or really one? Why?
- Is Jesus describing who his followers are? Or is he prescribing what they must do? Why do you think so?
- How are the beatitudes related to being “salt” and “light”?

Start sharing.

- Would kingdom people be admired where you live? Why or why not?
- Of the qualities listed, which 2 do you desire most to be displayed in our life? Why?
- Based on the beatitudes, is your life shining like a 300-watt bulb? 100-watt? A night-light? How can Jesus enable you to shine brighter?

Start praying. *Be bold and pray with power.*

God, I know you call me to more. Help me to rely on the grace that you give and to allow it to change me. Use that change to display brightly the grace that you give to those around me.

Start doing. *Commit to a step and live it out this week.*

- Pray daily for God to reveal Himself to you and one other person you choose to pray for.
- Start living obediently within a world that is dark and corrupted, and allow God to use you to show others God’s love.