

The Gospel of Matthew

Booklet 04 – Two Lessons

Lesson 10 - Matthew (5:1-12 overview) 5: 10-12

Lesson 11 - Matthew 5: 13-16

*Pour on the Salt
And
Turn on the
Light*

International ESL/Bible Lessons
Intermediate to Advanced Level

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Much of the material in these lessons come from *The Gospel of Matthew, Vol. I*, by William Barclay. Daily Study Bible Series.

I also use Bible Commentaries, Dictionaries and on-line sources. All pictures are from Google Images.

The Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 5:1-12 Overview

The Sermon on the Mount

¹ Now / when Jesus saw the crowds, / he went up on a mountainside / and sat down. / His disciples came to him, / ² and he began to teach them. He said:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you / when people insult you, /persecute you / and falsely say / all kinds of evil against you / because of me. / ¹² Rejoice and be glad, / because great is your reward in heaven, / for in the same way they persecuted the prophets / who were before you.

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Lesson 10 - Matthew 5: 10-12

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Vocabulary

1. Persecute: Express sadness at someone’s death. Grieve.

Adjective	Noun	Verb	Adverb
Persecuted	Persecution	To persecute	
False	Falsification	To falsify	Falsely

Questions

1. Do you remember a time when you believed something and friends and others made fun of you? How did that feel?
2. Can you name some places where Christians are persecuted today?
3. How are martyrs treated even today?
4. Why should being a Christian change your life?

Notes:

1. Remember this is wisdom literature. Jesus is turning our natural thoughts upside down. This is clearly seen in expecting persecution for those who believe.
2. Even today, many Christians face persecution. We see this in Nigeria, where churches, with worshipers inside, are burned. Extreme Islamists are persecuting Christians in their midst.
3. Again, an opposite attitude from the normal: Jesus told his followers to be glad in hardship, and to “leap for joy” when persecution came. He offered as a reason that the prophets were also persecuted. His own cousin, John the Baptist, was persecuted and killed.
4. Not every persecution is pronounced *blessed*. The motive must be right; for righteousness sake, for my sake.’ Some persecutions do not fulfill that requirement. There are some that we unworthily invite because of our intolerance. But when every qualification has been made, it is clear that Jesus expected his followers to be persecuted.
5. Persecution awaits the honest politician, the tradesman who will not compromise for profits, and the teacher who sticks with the truth.
6. During the time of Jesus, Rome was the occupying army. Rome had many gods, and expected the emperor or Caesar to be called

Lord. Once a year, every adult male had to offer a pinch of incense to the Caesar. Refusing to do that was punished severely. Yet to the Christian, only Jesus was Lord.

7. A Christian during Roman times was subjected to all kinds of disruptions in his life. Should a Christian stonemason build a temple to one of the gods? Should a Christian eat the meat that was routinely slaughtered and roasted and eaten in the temple of a god? The temple was where the meat was available for a few hours had to be offered, and the rest was shared and sold.
8. Christianity often split families. The believer was outcast and had to find a way to survive without the normal society of the Roman citizens. Every department of their lives was disrupted: work, home and social.

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Lesson 11 - Matthew 5:13-16 Salt and Light

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. / But if the salt / loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? / It is no longer good for anything, / except to be thrown out / and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. / A town / built on a hill / cannot be hidden. / ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp / and put it under a bowl. / Instead they put it on its stand, / and it gives light to everyone in the house. / ¹⁶ In the same way, / let your light shine before others, / that they may see your good deeds / and glorify your Father in heaven.

Vocabulary

Adjective	Noun	Verb	Adverb
	Tramp	To trample	
	Glory Glorification	To glorify	

Idioms with salt and with light

1. To rub salt into a wound: means to add to someone’s distress, embarrassment, or sense of shame, often deliberately. *Paul is*

really upset about his stupid remark. Don't tease him and rub salt into the wound.

2. To take something with a grain of salt: To listen to something without fully believing it. *Many Americans take promises of the politician with a grain of salt.*
3. The salt of the earth: Means a very good, worthy person or a group of people. *Mary is so willing to help. Yes, she is really the salt of the earth.*
4. Worth your salt: Efficient and doing your job well. Worth your paycheck. *Ben solved the problem and saved the company millions. Yes, he is worth his salt to the organization.*
5. To bring something to light or to cast light on something: Means to reveal something, especially after an investigation. *After he was arrested for robbery, it was brought to light that he was convicted of theft under another name in Tennessee.*
6. To come to light: Means to be revealed or made evident. *It has come to light that the politician had been taking money from the businessmen who wanted a new law passed in their favor.*
7. To go out like a light: To fall asleep very quickly and deeply. *I was so tired after the long flight that I went out like a light in the hotel.*
8. In the cold light of day: Means when things are seen for what they really are rather than being seen in an unrealistically favorable light. *Mary really wanted to buy that expensive house,*

but in the cold light of day, she realized she could not really afford it.

9. In light of something: Means taking into consideration what is known or what has just been said or found out. *In light of your inability to program this correctly, we just don't feel we can offer you the job.*
10. To punch or put somebody's lights out: Means to give someone a severe beating. *I heard Jack say he would punch your lights out if you flirted with his girlfriend again.*
11. To see the light: Means to have a sudden understanding or appreciation of something. It also means to be converted to a faith, belief, or point of view. *I couldn't understand the calculus problem, but after your explanation, I think I see the light now.*
12. To see the light of day: Means to be published or made publicly known. *That woman's private email was never meant to see the light of day, let alone be published all over the Internet.*
13. To shed or throw light on something: Means to make it possible or easier to understand something. *Can you shed a little light on this policy concerning snow days?*
14. The light of day: Means the early hours of daylight, especially at dawn. *We really need to leave by the light of the day.*

15. The light of somebody's life. Means the person somebody cherishes the most. *Adam told us that his fiancé was the light of his life. Mary's twin boys are the lights of her life.*
16. To make light of something: Means to treat something as unimportant. *Writing graphic novels is serious work. Please don't make light of them.*

Questions

1. Can you remember a person that you would consider *the salt of the earth*? How did that person help or teach you?
2. What does light mean in your life? What does darkness mean?

Notes

1. In the ancient world, salt was valued very highly. It is said that the Roman soldiers were paid in salt because it would then purchase anything a soldier might need in any part of the world.
2. "In the time of Jesus salt was connected in people's minds with three special qualities: purity, preservatives, and flavor.
3. The Romans said that salt was the purist of all things because it came from the sun and the sea. Salt was offered to the gods and Jewish sacrifices were offered with salt.
4. If salt is equated with purity and we have high standards, and live up to them, we are OK. If we follow the world and lower the

standards of dress, speech, work and living, we are called *tasteless* and salt that has lost its flavor is tasteless.

5. Salt preserves meat and keeps it from going bad or corrupt. So the Christian should have a good influence on those around him or her and not become corrupt.
6. Salt also lends flavor to foods, as Christians should lend flavor to life. It is sad that so many Christians act sad or lifeless, when Christianity brings joy and life. Wonder what they are missing?
7. “Jesus said, “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’(John 9:5) When Jesus commanded his followers to be the lights of the world, he demanded nothing less than they should be like himself.” Barclay, p. 123
8. What does it mean that we are to be the light of the world?
 - A light is meant to be seen. A man’s Christianity should be perfectly visible to all men. A Christianity whose effects stop at the church door is not much use to anyone. It should be even more visible in the ordinary activities of the world. Our Christianity should be visible in the way we order a meal in a restaurant, in the way we treat our employees and fellow workers, in the way we play a game or daily speak our own language.

- A light is a guide and a Christian should be setting the example for others. Suppose there is a group of people, and suppose it is suggested that some questionable thing be done. Unless someone makes his protest, the thing will be done. But if someone rises and says, 'I will not be a party to that, another and another will rise and say, ' Neither will I.' But had they not been given the lead, they would have remained silent.
- A light can often be a warning light. We must know when to halt when there is danger ahead. How many times have we spoken to someone of danger and they later returned and told us about it.