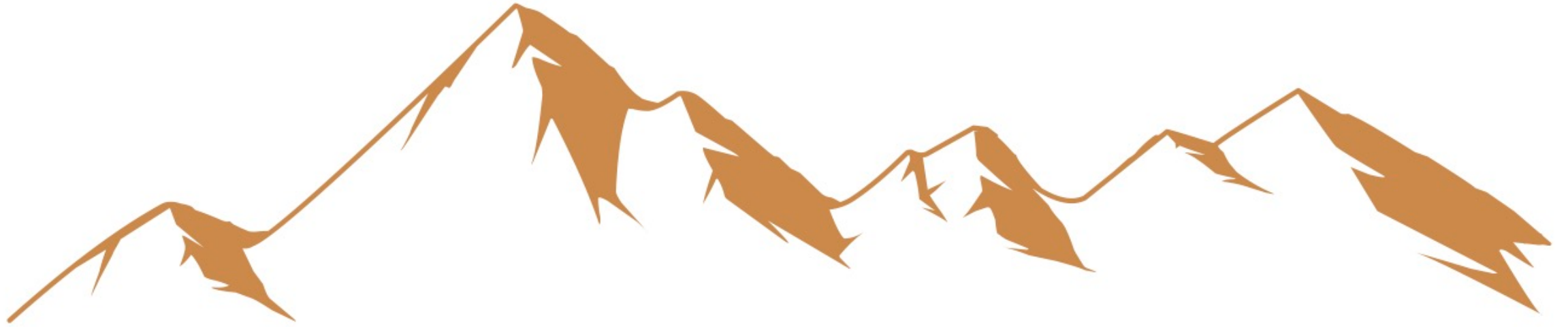




SERMON *on the* MOUNT

The Christian's Influence
Matthew 5:13

“The world will undoubtedly persecute the church, yet it is the church’s calling to serve this persecuting world.”

- John Stott

“This section assures the disciples that not all people will react to their righteousness so negatively. Some will actually examine the disciples’ righteous conduct and respond not with persecution but by glorifying the heavenly Father.”

- And Charles Quarles



The Christian's Influence – Matt. 5:13

- I. A Flavorful Influence – v. 13a
- II. A Loss of Influence – v. 13b
- III. A Different Influence – v. 13c



The Christian's Influence – Matt. 5:13

- **Mark 9:49-50**, *“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”*
- **Luke 14:34-35**, *“Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”*
- **Colossians 4:5-6**, *“Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.”*



“Christians whose lives exhibit the qualities of the ‘blessed’ will have a preserving impact upon a society that, if left to itself, will rot and deteriorate.”

- John Stott

“He (Christ) was teaching that the world apart from God is rotten because of sin, but that through His power His disciples were able and actually obliged to have a preserving and purifying effect upon it.”

- James Montgomery Boice



The Christian's Influence – Matt. 5:13

- I. A Flavorful Influence – v. 13a
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“The disciple has one great function – to be the salt of the earth by living out the terms of discipleship listed in the Beatitudes and throughout the rest of the Sermon. If he fails to exhibit this spiritual reality, men will tread his testimony under their feet. The world has only contempt for an undedicated believer.”

- William MacDonald



The Christian's Influence – Matt. 5:13

Vs. 3: Are you spiritually humble or do you act superior?

Vs. 4: Are you spiritually sorrowful or have no shame?

Vs. 5: Are you known as arrogant rather than humble or meek?

Vs. 6: What pursuits drive your time and attention? Do others see you as hungering after righteousness?

Vs. 7: Are you seen as harsh rather than merciful?

Vs. 8: Are you hypocritical in your conduct rather than pure or holy?

Vs. 9: Are you seen as combative rather than as a peacemaker?

Vs. 10-12: Are you ready and willing to be persecuted? Will you stand for righteousness at personal costs?



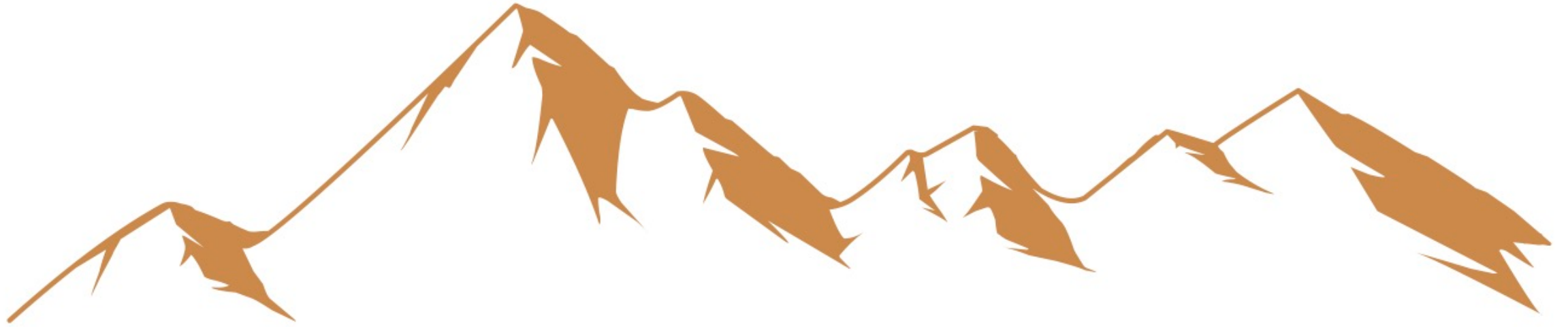
“He is to manifest those characteristics in the world. And what more, he is to practice these things in a way that will affect the world positively, as salt affects the medium to which one applies it.”

- James Montgomery Boice

“We come to our friends, neighbors, co-workers, or fellow students as those who have been – and still are – in the presence of Jesus Christ, who has given us abundant life. Everything about us should express the attractiveness as well as the holiness of our Lord.”

- Sinclair Ferguson





SERMON *on the* MOUNT