



STORY TIME

Discovering the Parables of Jesus

41 Parables of Jesus

PARABLES	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
Salt of the Earth	Matthew 5:13	Mark 9:50	
Lamp Under a Bowl	Matthew 5:14-16	Mark 4:21-22	Luke 8:16, 11:33
Wise and Foolish Builders	Matthew 7:24-27		Luke 6:47-49
New Cloth on an Old Coat	Matthew 9:16	Mark 2:21	Luke 5:36
New Wine in Old Wineskins	Matthew 9:17	Mark 2:22	Luke 5:37-39
The Two Debtors			Luke 7:40-43
The Sower	Matthew 13:1-23	Mark 4:1-20	Luke 8:4-15
The Good Samaritan			Luke 10:25-37
The Friend at Midnight			Luke 11:5-13
Growing Seed		Mark 4:26-29	
The Rich Fool			Luke 12:13-21
The Watchful Servants		Mark 13:35-37	Luke 12:35-40
Unfruitful Fig Tree			Luke 13:6-9
The Weeds	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-4		
The Seed	Matthew 13:31-32	Mark 4:26-30	Luke 13:18-19
Yeast	Matthew 13:33		Luke 13:20-21
The Concealed Treasure	Matthew 13:44		
The Pearl	Matthew 13:45-46		
The Casting of the Net into the Sea	Matthew 13:47-50		
Owner of a House	Matthew 13:52		
The Lost Sheep	Matthew 18:12-14		Luke 15:3-7
The Unforgiving Servant	Matthew 18:23-35		
The Vineyard Workers	Matthew 20:1-16		

PARABLES	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
Lowest Seat at the Feast			Luke 14:7-14
The Great Feast			Luke 14:16-24
Cost of Discipleship			Luke 14:28-33
The Lost Coin			Luke 15:8-10
The Prodigal Son			Luke 15:11-32
The Shrewd Manager			Luke 16:1-13
The Rich Man and Lazarus			Luke 16:19-31
Master and His Servant			Luke 17:7-10
Persistent Widow			Luke 18:1-8
The Two Sons	Matthew 21:28-32		
The Vineyard Owner	Matthew 21:33-44	Mark 12:1-11	Luke 20:9-18
The Marriage Feast	Matthew 22:1-14		
Fig Tree	Matthew 24:32-35	Mark 13:28-31	Luke 21:29-33
Faithful and Wise Servant	Matthew 24:45-51		Luke 12:42-48
The Pharisee and the Tax Collector			Luke 18:9-14
Ten Virgins	Matthew 25:1-13		
The Talent	Matthew 25:14-30		Luke 19:11-27
The Sheep and the Goats	Matthew 25:31-46		

One-third of the recorded sayings of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels are in parables.

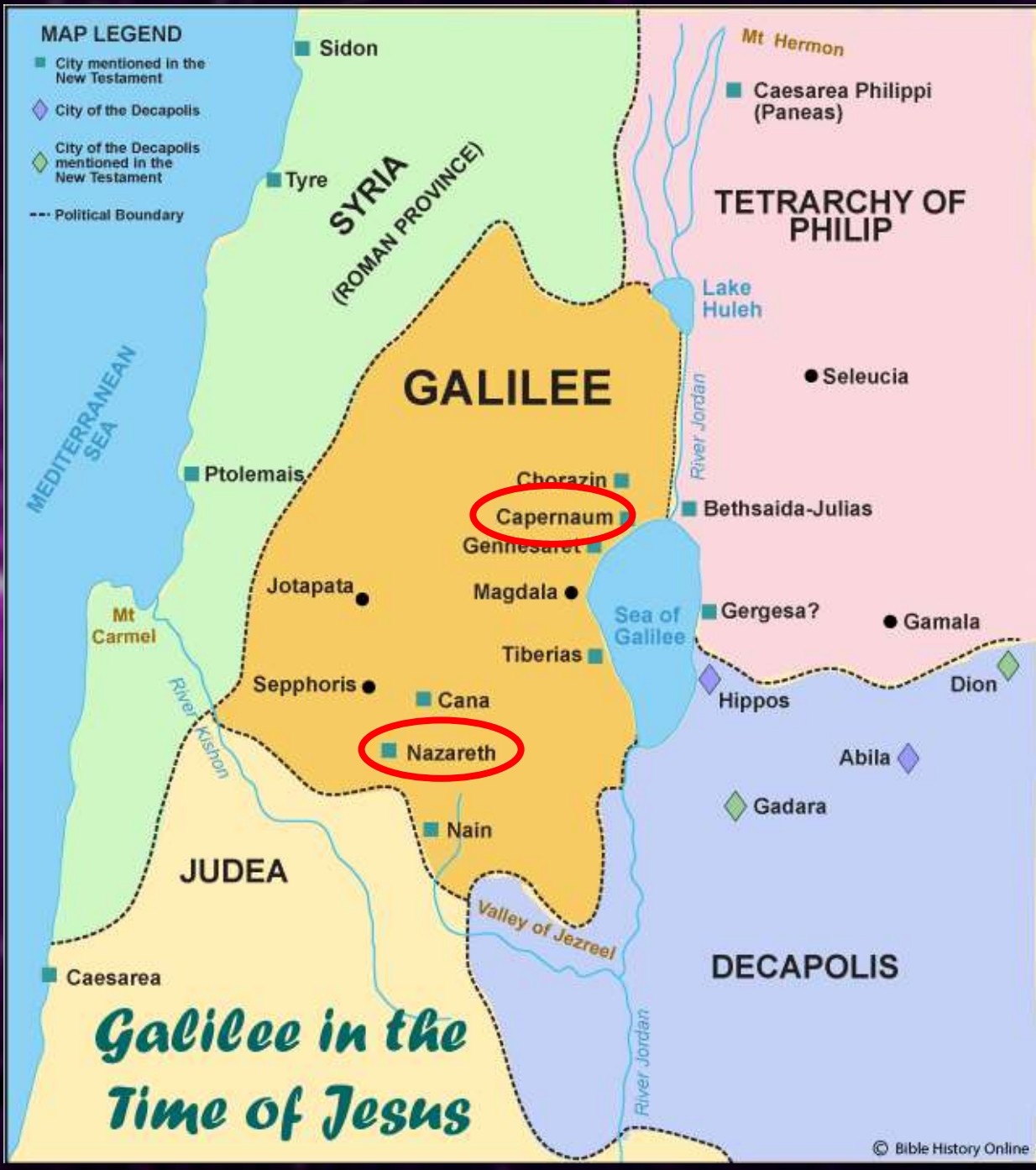
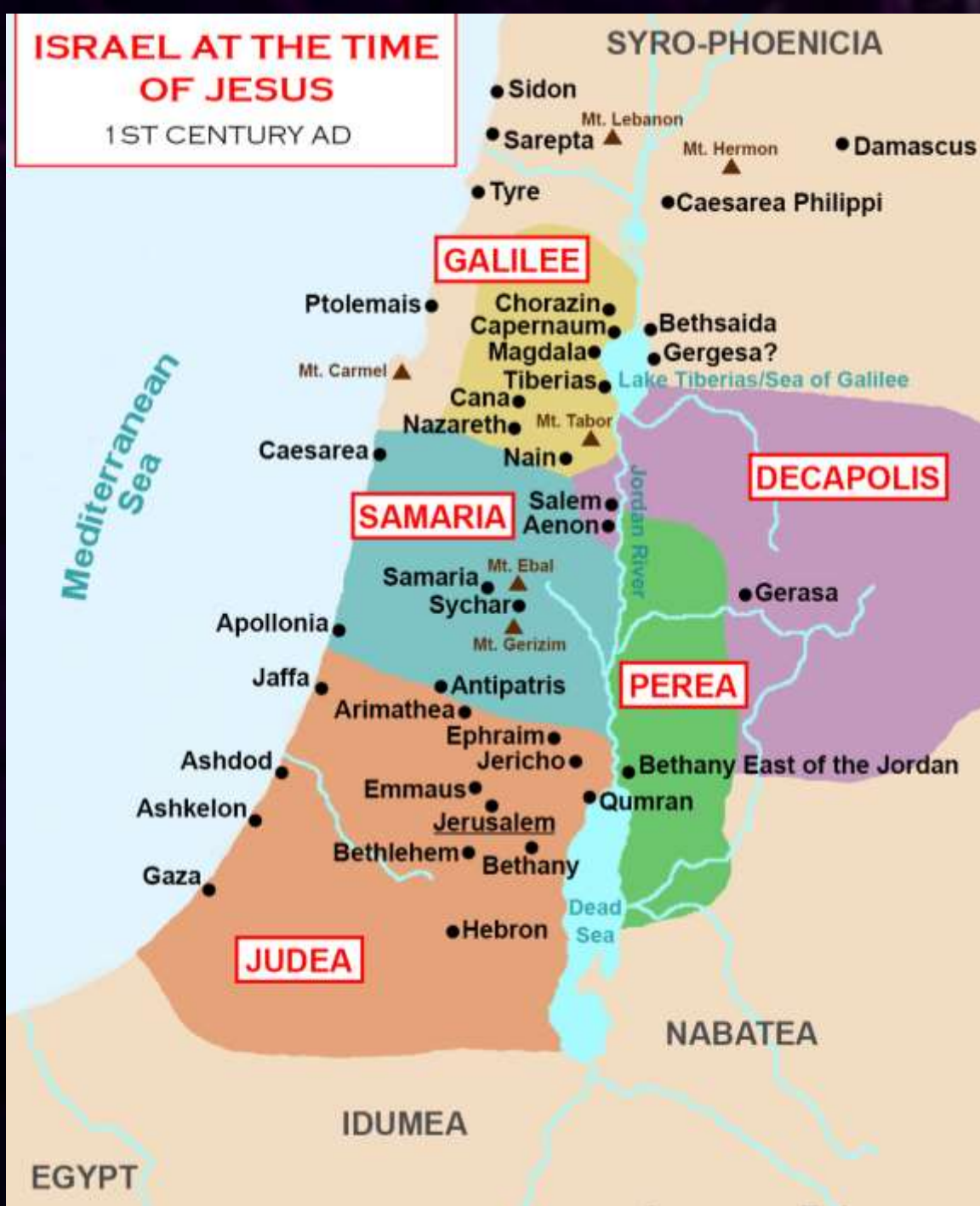
Matthew 5

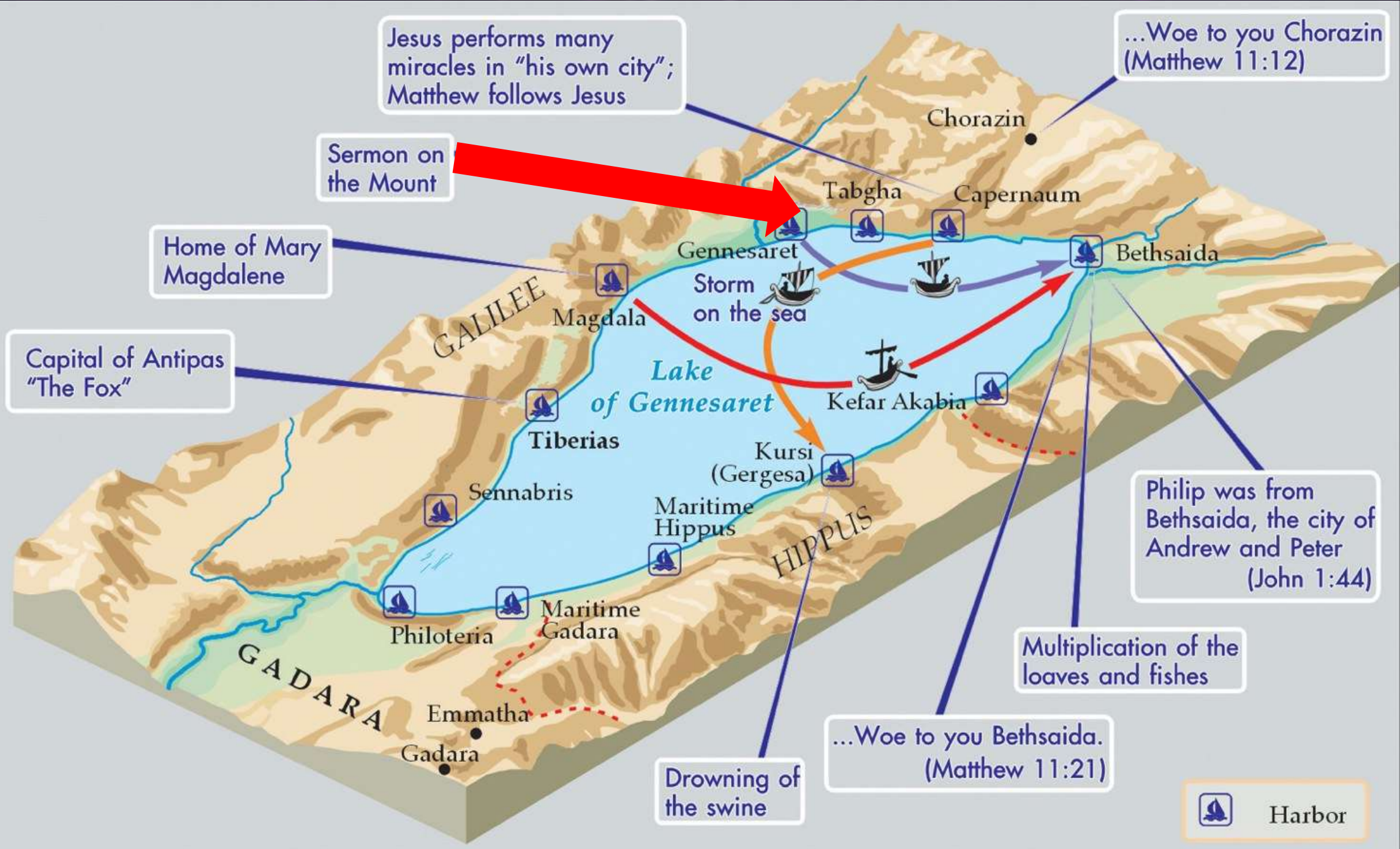
When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples [Hebrew *talmidim*] came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them,
Matthew 5:1-2

*The essence of the relationship between a rabbi and his *talmidim* in the first century was one of trust in every area of living, and its goal was to make the *talmid* like his rabbi in knowledge, wisdom and ethical behavior. - Jewish New Testament Commentary

*It was the custom of Rabbis to sit as they taught. - Bible Knowledge Commentary

**ISRAEL AT THE TIME
OF JESUS**
1ST CENTURY AD







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Jesus said to the large crowd...

“You are the salt [Greek noun ἅλας *halas*] of the earth...” Matthew 5:13a

* Sodium chloride (salt) is absolutely essential for human life. Salt is needed for the transmission of nerve impulses and for the contracting and relaxing of muscles. It is necessary to regulate blood pressure. People with high blood pressure are sometimes advised to lower the amount of their salt intake. But too little salt, and your blood pressure will plummet, which could contribute to cardiovascular problems. The body uses salt to regulate fluid levels, and so it is essential to good heart, kidney and liver function. Salt also kills bacteria, so in the absence of other sterilizing agents, in an emergency it can be used to treat wounds (though it is painful...“pouring salt on an open wound”).

Qualities of Salt

1. Valuable
2. Adds flavor
3. Stings an open wound
4. Creates thirst
5. Preserves food
6. Cleanses
7. Sign of a covenant

- In the ancient world, salt was considerably more difficult to obtain than today. Because it was used to preserve food before the existence of canning and refrigeration, it had very high value. The Latin words *sal* and *salarium* are the basis for the words 'salt' and 'salary.' Roman soldiers were required to purchase their own food and equipment, and the *salarium* was a subsidy – a sum of money they received to purchase salt to preserve their food during extended military campaigns.
- The type of sodium chloride (NaCl) available to us today is very pure and, because it is a very stable element, it never loses its flavor. Salt in the ancient world was much less pure, so it actually could lose its flavor.

Like salt, the church must have a preserving effect on society and by its influence prevent the world from rushing headlong toward ungodliness. Christianity has fulfilled this role historically, leading the way in the advance of human rights. But take note that we are salt only if we maintain our difference from the world around us. In the Near East, salt can be found mixed with gypsum or sand, diluting its “saltiness” and worth. The same fate can befall us if we attempt to show the world how much we are like them.

- If we are really followers of Yeshua, and if we are allowing God to work the necessary changes in our character, it will reflect in our conduct – our attitudes and actions. Like a modest dash of salt enhances the flavor of food, a genuine disciple of Yeshua will add *n'eemoot* (pleasantness) to the lives of those around them.
- Just as salt kills bacteria and preserves perishable food, there is a sense in which this world is preserved from descending into utter lawlessness and merciless violence by the presence of godly individuals. This isn't a new idea; nor was it new in Yeshua's day. We have the ancient example of Abraham bargaining with God to spare the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah if even a handful of righteous men could be found there.

Jesus said to the large crowd...

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless [lost its flavor], how can it be made salty again?” Matthew 5:13a-b

- The loss of saltiness occurs in the failure of the Christian to daily take up the cross and follow Christ wholeheartedly. - <https://www.gotquestions.org/salt-and-light.html>
- Salt that has lost its saltiness is of no value – it can only be revealed for its hypocrisy and thrown out to be trampled on by the unbelieving world. A saltless, faithless Christianity has lost its power.

- <http://www.messianicgoodnews.org/salt-and-light/>

Warnings are only given if something has happened or could possibly happen



The original Jewish audience of Jesus would have known this passage from Torah...

The Lord said to Moses, “Every grain offering of yours, moreover, you shall season with salt, so that the salt of the covenant of your God shall not be lacking from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.”

Leviticus 2:13

The meaning which the salt, with its power to strengthen food and preserve it from putrefaction and corruption, imparted to the sacrifice, was the unbending truthfulness of that self-surrender to the Lord embodied in the sacrifice, by which all impurity and hypocrisy were repelled. The salt of the sacrifice is called the salt of the covenant, because in common life salt was the symbol of covenant; treaties being concluded and rendered firm and inviolable, according to a well-known custom of the ancient Greeks which is still retained among Arabs, by the parties to an alliance eating bread and salt together, as a sign of the treaty which they had made. As a covenant of this kind was called a "covenant of salt," equivalent to an indissoluble covenant (Numbers 18:19; 2 Chronicles 13:5), so here the salt added to the sacrifice is designated as salt of the covenant of God, because of its imparting strength and purity to the sacrifice, by which Israel was strengthened and fortified in covenant fellowship with Yahweh.

Jesus said to the large crowd...

“It [the unsalty salt] is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.” Matthew 5:13c

- Salt has the effect of rendering soil infertile and uninhabitable. - <http://www.messianicgoodnews.org/salt-and-light/>
- A fruitful land into a salt waste, because of the wickedness of those who dwell in it. Psalm 107:34

- Jesus said, “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.” Mark 9:50
- Jesus said, “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.**” Luke 14:34-35
- 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. Colossians 4:5-6

- Just as salt on an open wound is painful, if we are outspoken about our faith, and trying to live a godly life in a morally corrupt and lawless society, people will turn on us. The people of Israel resented Moses, Aaron, Joshua and Caleb and murmured against them repeatedly, especially when Moses urged the people to repent and trust in the Lord. On multiple occasions, people were prepared to kill the righteous few.
- Some of the wisest and godliest men in all of history – Israel's prophets; men like Isaiah and Jeremiah were despised in their own generation. They took people to task for brazen disloyalty and sin against God. As a reward for their courage to speak the truth, these men were persecuted, slandered, beaten, and in several cases, murdered.
- The question is: are you salty? Do people know you follow Yeshua, or have you kept that under wraps? Are you willing to rock the boat in a good way, challenging people to repent and believe, or do you fit in so comfortably with the crowd that you are completely innocuous – useless; like unsalty salt?

Jesus said to the large crowd...

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;” Matthew 5:14

“Light” = Greek noun φῶς *phos*

Qualities of Light

1. Visible
2. Can't be ignored
3. Shows the way
4. Brings peace, security
5. Combats the darkness

**What qualities of a nation
and its citizenry are usually
associated with Darkness?**

- Anger
- Hatred
- Racism
- Cheating
- Violence
- Dishonesty
- Conflict

**What qualities of a nation
and its citizenry are usually
associated with Light?**

- Kindness
- Truthfulness
- Honesty
- Compassion
- Trust
- Communication
- Cooperation

“nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.” Matthew 5:15

“This is the judgment, that the Light [Messiah Jesus] has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.” John 3:19

Rural communities like the one Jesus addresses in Matthew 5 well know how blinding darkness can be. Yet the glow of a city in the distance can give those living in the pitch black of night a sense of direction and bearing. Just as walking around the camp at night is dangerous without a lighted torch, Jesus calls us to be the light of the world, to live as those transformed by the Spirit so that the world will take notice and be led to glorify the Father.

Where does Light come from?

Then God said, “Let there be **light**”; and there was **light**. Genesis 1:3

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי-אוֹר

First recorded words spoken by the Creator God are “Yehi Ohr” יְהִי אוֹר .

Week 1
Where it all starts

God saw that the **light** [אור ohr] was good [טוב tov]; and God separated the **light** from the darkness [חשך choshek]. Genesis 1:4

“good” means “reached its final stage”

In our physical world, how is light good?

Uses of Light today include:

- 1. Food formation** (photosynthesis; light is the sole source of food generation for all living organisms)
- 2. Growth of the body**
- 3. Regulation of physiology**
- 4. Vision and sight**
- 5. Temperature** (Light is a form of energy. Sunlight has huge energy by which the temperature on the earth is maintained. Due to this, life exists on earth.)
- 6. Sleep regulation** (body clock or circadian rhythm)

Uses of Light today include:

- 7. Drying and evaporation** (Sunlight helps dry the soil, forests, air and rocky surfaces due to its ability to heat up. It helps water evaporate from oceans and water ponds creating the water cycle.)
- 8. Sanitation of earth** (Sunlight helps keep nature clean)
- 9. Source of electric energy** (solar power)
- 10. For chemical analysis by spectroscopy** (analysis of compounds)
- 11. Signal system** (we use light as traffic signals, navigation signals, etc.)
- 12. Sterilization** (ultraviolet light is an excellent sterilizing agent in hospitals and stores)

As complex as **Light** is, as many possible uses of **Light** as there are... we only have **Light** because the Creator God said so.

If that was the beginning, what will the end look like?

Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war. Come, house of Jacob, and let us walk in the **light** of the Lord. Isaiah 2:2-5

He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a **light** of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
Isaiah 49:6



[Apostle John wrote...]
Then he showed me a
river of the water of life,
clear as crystal, coming
from the throne of God
and of the Lamb, in the
middle of its street.
Revelation 22:1-2

And there will no longer
be any night; and they
will not have need of the
light of a lamp nor the
light of the sun, because
the Lord God will
illumine them; and they
will reign forever and
ever. Revelation 22:5

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16

- Yeshua didn't say, “Aspire to be the light of the world.” He said, “You ARE the light of the world.” If you are a genuine believer, eventually it's going to show.



summer
fun

Join us on **Wednesday, August 23**, at **6:30 pm** as we work together to bless and support our missions partners in Romania, Andy and Tresha McKnight. We will complete the final steps of our Sprouts Project initiative by preparing over 400 boxes for shipping to Romania. We will see that each and every box is prayed over. It will be a great night of focus on sharing Christ with the world around us. Don't miss it!

Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm by reservation.

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TAKE 5

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Let Your Light Shine

- Make church on Sunday mornings a schedule priority
- Help the next generation learn to love Jesus
- Invite friends to worship with you
- Join an adult small group (or help start a new one)
- Engage in spiritual conversations with kindness
- Encourage those who make righteous choices
- Give generously to help tell the story of Jesus

Who is the Light? vs. Who represents the Light?

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. John 1:1-5
- There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. John 1:6-8
- There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. John 1:9-10

Messiah Yeshua may call us the light of the world, but we aren't the light source – He is. We are merely pointing people to the One who is the true light, who has come into the world.

Our job is to reflect His light, much as the moon doesn't have inherent light, but reflects the light of the sun.

What do “salt” and “light” look like?

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves also in all your behavior**; because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:14-16

Our Savior calls His disciples the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world”, two substances that permeate and transform the food, or the darkness, in which they are found.

Like salt and light, the church is to have a transformative effect on the surrounding society.

What sorts of things can hinder or prevent the Christian from fulfilling his or her role as salt and light in the world? The difference between the Christian and the world must be preserved; any choice on our part that blurs the distinction between us and the rest of the world is a step in the wrong direction.

The role of the Christian as salt and light in the world may be hindered or prevented through any choice to compromise or settle for that which is more convenient or comfortable, rather than that which is truly best and pleasing to the Lord. The status of salt and light is something that follows naturally from the Christian's humble obedience to the commandments of Christ. It is when we depart from the Spirit-led lifestyle of genuine discipleship that the distinctions between ourselves and the rest of the world become blurred and our testimony is hindered. Only by remaining focused on Christ and being obedient to Him can we expect to remain salt and light in the world.

What do “salt and light” believers look like?

Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in reply. Acts 4:13-14

But when they had ordered them to leave the Council, they began to confer with one another, saying, “What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But so that it will not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name.” And when they had summoned them [Peter and John], they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. Acts 4:15-18

But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Acts 4:19-20

*People who are SALT and LIGHT have been changed by Jesus and cannot stop speaking about it

Jesus said...

“You are the salt of the earth” Matthew 5:13

“You are the light of the world” Matthew 5:14

If we profess to be followers of the Savior...

- How are we doing individually?
- How are we doing as a congregation?

***Are we willing to really live as salt and light?**