

EPC Sermon November 9, 2025
“Blessings, Salt, Light - The Spice of Life”

Psalm 27

The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.
- 3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.
- 4 One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.
- 5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.
- 6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.
- 7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!
- 8 You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, Lord, do I seek.”
- 9 Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!
- 10 For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.
- 11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
- 12 Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.
- 13 I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!
- 14 Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

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Matthew 5:1-14

The Sermon on the Mount

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

The Beatitudes

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

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

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

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

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

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

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Salt and Light

13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

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Opening greeting

Pakistan story

Today we're looking at the Sermon on the Mount. We are looking at the beginning of that sermon.

For some historical context Jesus had been teaching in many areas, healing many diseases and performing many miracles. As a result, large crowds coming from all over Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan were coming out to see him. And they were following him wherever he went. Jesus had attracted a large following of curious people. It was during this time that Jesus gave his sermon.

Jesus sat down with his disciples and began teaching them but at the same time a large crowd gathered to listen to his teachings.

Who is Jesus talking to or addressing in this sermon?

He speaks of the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, the persecuted and the falsely accused.

He calls all these people blessed. Jesus says theirs will be the Kingdom of heaven, they will be comforted, they shall inherit the earth, they shall be satisfied, they shall receive mercy, they shall see God, they'll be called the sons of God, they'll be in the Kingdom of heaven, and they'll be rewarded.

I think he was addressing not only his disciples, but also those in the multitude who were listening.

How many of us here today have been "poor in spirit" recognizing our need for God's help?

How many of us have mourned a loss whether it be personal, spiritual, emotional or even financial and wanted comfort?

How many of us have been meek/gentle wanting to serve others and not caring about our own agendas, trusting in God?

How many of us have wanted righteousness/justice and asked God for that?

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How many of us have shown mercy?

How many of us pursue God wanting to be pure in heart?

How many of us have tried to be peacemakers smoothing over the rough edges between individuals and within our community?

And how many of us have felt that we've been treated wrongly just because of our faith?

I think the answer is: **ALL OF US**

All of us have at some time felt that we belonged to one of these groups.

Jesus is speaking to the multitude and to us, we are part of that multitude.

So, in the opening of this sermon Jesus is describing those who are in the audience and especially his followers.

The next subjects Jesus talks about is salt and light.

Review verse 13

13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

Notice Jesus is talking to "You". His listeners. To us.

He is talking directly to his listeners about them being "salt" in the world

Salt, good old sodium chloride, NaCl a white substance used in everyday life. Enhances and improves our lives.

Salt is used for flavoring, to enhance the taste of food. In soups, pinch in coffee to remove bitterness, on meat, vegetables. Keep it on the table for use.

Salt free just doesn't taste the same.

Salt is used to preserve food, to prevent spoilage. In canned foods. Salt Pork, and of course Bacon.

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Salt is used for curing and drying.

Salt is used to make rawhide. Hunting story about salt

Pure salt cannot lose its saltiness it will simply just disappear.

Highway department used to use a mixture of salt, sand, etc. on roads to melt snow and improve traction on roads during winter. If not kept dry the salt would leach out and the mixture would no longer melt snow.

In the first century salt was harvested from salt marshes or mines near the Dead Sea. It contained a lot of impurities, and the salt, IE sodium chloride, could be leached from those products hence losing its saltiness and usefulness.

We are meant to be "salt" for others enhancing their lives by introducing Jesus or showing the Love of Jesus by our actions.

Review verses 14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Notice Jesus is talking to "You". His listeners. To us.

He is talking directly to his listeners about them being "light" in the world

Cities in Palestine we're built on hills for defensive purposes often the walls were made with white/light colored stone.

They could be seen from miles away.

Any light in a window would also be seen from miles away at night.

They could not be hidden. Impossible to camouflage.

Hunting story about light in a tent.

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We are meant to influence others by our actions.

Story here

We are meant to be light to others by showing the love of Jesus through us.

We are meant to be the spice of life.