



THE
UPSIDE DOWN
KINGDOM

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

APRIL 26 – JULY 5

Salty Shining

Matthew 5:10-16

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.

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.

Matthew 5:10-16 (ESV)

Three Expectations of Kingdom Citizens

The background of the image is a vast, soft-focus sky at sunset or sunrise. The colors transition from a pale blue at the top to a warm, golden-orange at the bottom. The sky is filled with delicate, wispy clouds that catch the light, creating a textured and ethereal atmosphere. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Three Expectations of Kingdom Citizens

1) We're salty.

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

Colossians 4:6

Three Expectations of Kingdom Citizens

- 1) We're salty.
- 2) We shine the light.

Christianity may be the biggest force in history to protect women and promote their human rights, which is why so many flocked to Christianity in its early days. In fact, while males greatly outnumbered females in the pagan world, early Christianity developed a surplus of women.

-Rodney Stark

Three Expectations of Kingdom Citizens

- 1) We're salty.
- 2) We shine the light.

Three Expectations of Kingdom Citizens

- 1) We're salty.
- 2) We shine the light.
- 3) We're ready for persecution.

“Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— 38 of whom the world was not worthy— wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.”

Hebrews 11:35-38

“Universal popularity was as much the lot of the false prophets as persecution was of the true.”

John Stott

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

1 Peter 4:12-14

To the Esteemed Pastors of City Bible Church

Greetings, The Municipality of Shweir – Ain El Sindianeh, represented by its president and members, extends its sincere thanks and deep appreciation to the honorable pastors of the church for your noble humanitarian efforts and generous contributions in assisting and supporting the shelter centers within the municipal area.

Your initiative reflects the highest meanings of solidarity and love, and it has had a significant impact in alleviating the suffering of the displaced. All thanks and appreciation to you, and may God reward you abundantly.



How's your saltiness?
How's your shine?