

Following Christ in the Real World

Do you ever live on Someday Isle?

The only control I have over *someday* is how I live now.

Matthew 5:1-16

Blessed (makarioi): The person who is singularly favored by God.

Jesus' Someday World

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.*

Jesus connects His Someday/Kingdom World to Real Life.

How will he get His Kingdom into this world?

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.*

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.*

Christ followers are expected to live differently!

Real Faith is lived out among Real People!

v.21-26 People in church who offend you.

v.27-32 People who are married but tempted.

v.33-36 People who make promises & fail

v.37-42 People in public who hurt you.

v.43-47 People who deliberately attack you.

Your life takes the shape of the relationships you have.

Why not see relational challenges as the place you learn holiness!

So What?

I think I am OK except for this relationship...

I will let Jesus lead me in this relationship.

Prayer

I am the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

I am not my own. I belong to Christ.

God help me to let my whole life shine so that others,
who see my good works, will glorify my Father in heaven.

In Jesus' Name. Amen

Scripture from New International Version
John Bray, July 2 & 3, 2011

Want to hear this again?

The sermon is posted on the church web site by Monday evening.

www.heritageqc.com Hit **"Watch sermon on-line"**

For more information: visit John's blog at www.nowwhatjohn.com

Now What? Resources for Reflection & Growth

How has your relationship with Jesus changed the way you relate to people?

Read the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10). Use a couple of different translations, if you can. [LifeChurch.TV has a Bible App called You Version you can download to your phone. If you do, check out The Message and the New Living Translation for this scripture.]

- What do you learn about how God wants us to relate to others?
- To clarify what Jesus is saying describe the opposite of each quality.
- How do these qualities compare to the way the world would measure success?
- Of these 8 qualities, which two do you most need/desire in your life?

The Beatitudes describe the Kingdom of God. The world does not yet reflect those qualities but, as a Christ-follower, you are the person who is Christ's tool in this world. Read Matthew 5:11-16 and notice how often Jesus uses the word "you" and "your."

Have a little fun and try to draw as many parallels as possible between salt and Christians who are seeking to make an impact among those who are not yet Christ followers. Use the following three images as a springboard for your thinking/discussion.

- Salt makes people thirsty: How can we make people thirst for the living water of Jesus?
- Salt spices things up: How can we add flavor in our community and culture?
- Salt is a powerful preservative: How can we be a preservative that helps to slow the erosion of the beauty and moral purity God wants to bring into this world?

What is one way you are actively seeking to be salt in the life of a person who is not a follower of Jesus? How can your small group (or a trusted spiritual friend) pray for you in this relationship?

You are also the light of the world. Describe a life situation you are in right now where there is a great deal of darkness. How could you be "light" in this situation?

The sermon pointed out that "real faith is lived out among real people." People, by the very fact that they are people, bring imperfection and difficulty into your life. You are imperfect too.

- What one thing do you think you most need God's help in so that you can be a better representative of Kingdom reality in this world?

To dig deeper, visit John's blog at www.NowWhatJohn.com