

Flourishing in God's Kingdom (Matthew 5:1-16)

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Date: 31 October 2020

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[0:00] How many weeks after the level 2 that you're actually in the office?

I think we went into lockdown. Yeah. Three, four days after. Yeah, that's right. For about three, four weeks, right? Yeah. Yeah. I always feel sorry for you, right? That's fine. Yeah.

It's good to see people. Good evening, everyone. It's a privilege to be here with you this evening.

So why don't we pray as we come into God's Word? Heavenly Father, thank you for your Word. Thank you that it speaks to us in every season whether we are feeling good or whether we are feeling bad.

Father, would you please open our eyes to see wondrous things from your Word this evening. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. Amen. I wonder what comes to mind when you think of a crisis.

[1:20] When we are in a crisis. When we are in a crisis. We live in an age of crisis, don't we? We live in an age of crisis, don't we? We live in an age of crisis, don't we?

Day after day, our news tells us of urgent things happening around the world. We live in an age of crisis, don't we? And we live in an age of crisis.

And sometimes people will say when there's no marmite on the shelf, they call that a crisis. Yet we also live in an age of moral crisis.

There's a global crisis, I think of knowing what is right and what is wrong, what is good and evil. We vote down.

If you go on Facebook, it's so polarized. One person's unborn child is another person's do what you want with it. Sometimes you read an article that says they are called rioters, and then sometimes they are protesters.

[3:05] Sometimes this is must share news. Sometimes it is fake news.

There are some people who are saying these messages are always true. But the ones that are false news are true. We live in a world confused of what is right and wrong. And this world is very strange.

What is right, what is wrong, what is wrong, what is wrong. But it's not just out there in the news, right? It's not just out there in the news, right? A crisis of right and wrong impacts us personally too.

And these kinds of■■■■■■■■■■. What will you do when your mom or dad is diagnosed with not long to live? Maybe they have cancer. And now euthanasia is an option on the table.

If we have a cancer, especially if we have a cancer, we have cancer. We have to go through this one. We have to go to the hospital. What about after this service, you go out to night in town, and someone invites you to get drunk or to try a drug?

[4:07] Or if you go out to the city, there are people who say, hey, see it, it's good. How do we respond when someone walks across us at the street and says a racist comment at you?

Or if you go out to you, just like a species of us, we will be able to respond. And I think in this age we live in, the first 16 verses of Matthew chapter 5, I think it's more relevant than ever.

These words from the sermon on the mount. In the Mark of the Holy Spirit, the 5th verse, 1-6 verses, we have a great and a great.

We've actually been going through the whole book of Matthew from chapter 1 in English service, but today we are up to chapter 5. We are up to the English verse 5.

In Matthew chapter 5, we see Jesus the teacher, we have been introduced to him as the promised king, and now he comes and becomes a teacher.

[5:15] He says, repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. He only is a teacher. He is only a teenager. He is the Lord.

him up a mountain where Jesus enacts a Moses moment. He is like a new Moses going up on a mountain, sitting down and beginning to teach his disciples.

That's what we need, isn't it?

We need to know, I think in 2020 Not just how to do good things but actually how to be good things To live as flourishing men and women of God in light of the kingdom of heaven Now this is teaching This sermon on the mount and these beatitudes This is teaching admired even by non-Christians I'll tell you about one author Russian author His name is Leo Tolstoy He read these and he was so amazed and he tried to follow these teachings by himself But what happened is that he tried to follow it in his own power

And it drove a wedge between him and his wife He sold everything And then he alienated his family And then he ran away And died a homeless man

[9:40] So I'd like to invite us as a congregation to read Matthew 5, 1, 16 together I'll put it up on the slide And let's read it together 1-16 power point

You get a perfect coffee With a nice picture Or if you get the perfect noodles At your restaurant You are blessed ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ But we need to understand In the original language The word blessed here In Matthew 5 Is not just a declaration It's not like the saying The Lord bless you ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ The word really means Someone It's like trying to say That someone It's observing someone Who is truly happy Joyful and fruitful In a whole way ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ The closest place you can go to The closest place you can go to Is Psalm 1 Where if you think of Psalm 1 It says Blessed is the one Who walks not on the counsel Who delights and meditates

[illegible]

And those who hunger and thirst [REDACTED] Matthew seems to group together [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] group [REDACTED] Once a teacher asked Jesus What is
the greatest commandment [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
And he said The greatest commandment is this Love God with all your heart soul, mind
and strength And love your neighbor as yourself [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
And Christians in the past used to divide even the ten commandments This way They
would divide them into two parts Right?

[illegible]

[23:53] We don't talk much anymore about being good or truthful or right. But verse 7 reminds us, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

[illegible][illegible]

_____? _____?

[illegible]

[illegible]

[30:20] I talked with Casey Wong, a missionary that we support recently.

Do you know what he told me? That our persecuted brothers and sisters in China want us to pray for? I talked with Casey. They never asked to pray, remove the suffering from us.

They never asked that. Instead, they asked us to pray that they keep fixing their eyes on Jesus, pray that they stay faithful. They asked us to pray for the Lord.

How to pray for the Lord. Blessed are those, verse 10, who are persecuted for righteousness. Good on them. These beatitudes, they seem upside down, don't they?

These eightfold, ninefold, are the ones that are divided into the world. Compared to what our world, our society values and celebrates, it just seems so upside down.

[31:47] They probably wouldn't make it on any school rules or any checklist of what to do or how to live. And the first way that followers of Jesus will flourish is by an upside down character.

Remind me. But we are the one that is coming from Him. We are the one that is coming from Him. We have been in this role for three months now. And one thing I've noticed already is that we are a busy church. I've been in this role for three months now.

And one thing I've noticed already is that we are a busy church. I've been in this role for three months now. I've noticed that we are in this role for three months now. And it's wonderful.

Every day there is someone meeting. A brothers group, a fellowship group, an English class. Another meeting, three services. It's so good. So, in our■■■, it's good. It's good. Every day there is a group of people.

And then on the week of the week, there are three things that are called. There are a lot of things that are called. But don't trick yourself to thinking that the more we do, the more you are blessed. But don't do it. Because we've just read that true blessing does not come with how much you do.

[33:12] We've just read that true blessing does not come with how much you do. True blessing comes from who we are on the inside.

Friends, we flourish through upside-down character. We're in this generation. And once these upside-down characters are seen in us, then it will no doubt change how we live.

And that's actually what we see when we get into verses 13 to 16, don't we? When we're like this, we find that our lives are not different. That's the third part. Because once your upside-down character grows and grows, you then flourish through having a clear presence in the world.

That's our second part. When we're living with Jesus, we're in this world completely different. We're in this world, we're in this world. We're in this world, we're in this world. We're in this world.

We're in this world. Because we're in this world. Because we're in this world. If I become a Christian, and I'm going to be laughed at, made fun of, maybe my family will not talk to me anymore because I'm a Christian, wouldn't it be far easier just to hide away from the world, right?

[34:39] If I'm a Christian, and I'm a Christian, and I'm not concerned about my family, and my family will not talk to me anymore.

And yet here in verses 13 to 16, Jesus doesn't say that. He doesn't say, alright, now you're blessed, and your character's changed. Now stay together, and that's it. Well done. No, he doesn't. He says something completely opposite.

Jesus will not say, you will not take me to this world, and I will not take you to you. That's it. Then you'll go together, and you'll be able to take me to you. Then you'll wait for me to take you back. No, Jesus will not say that.

Followers of Jesus, they don't flourish through upside-down character alone. They flourish as well when they have a clear presence. So that's the end of the world. That's the end of the world. It's not only that we are going to experience Jesus, but our life is different.

That's the end of the world. That's the end of the world. That's the end of the world. That's the end of the world. That's the end of the world. In verses 13, we read this very famous verse, right?

[35 : 39] We talk about you are the salt of the earth. In 13, we're very familiar. You are the salt of the earth. Now salt in the ancient Near East was used in all kinds of ways. In the ancient Near East, the ancient Near East was used in many different ways.

It made food tastier, of course. It made food tastier, of course. It made food tastier, of course. It can preserve food. It can keep it from paying off. And it was used in offerings and sacrifices.

In the Bible, salt was also used to show loyalty, to seal a promise, as it were, between God and his people.

And in the Bible, the God's people, the God's people in Leviticus 2.13, they actually asked, Add salt to all your offerings.

So, in Leviticus 2.13, it says, you have to put in all the conditions in your place. So, salt also points to something. This is a symbol.

[36 : 50] I think of a wedding ring as a symbol for marriage. This is a symbol. This is a symbol. It is like a symbol for marriage. It is like a symbol for marriage.

Or at Amcaris and Ryo's wedding, there was that cool thing where they poured sand into this thing together. Ryo and Amcaris, they have to put in sand into this thing together. They have to put in sand. It is a very good example of a symbol for marriage.

They did it to symbolize a new life together. It is a symbol for marriage together. And so, when Jesus says to his followers, you are the salt of the earth, he is also saying this, you are meant to be signs pointing to Jesus.

So, when Jesus said, you are meant to be signs pointing to Jesus. You are a sign that a gracious king, he has kept his promise to save a broken world.

If you see them as a symbol, you see them as a symbol. You see them as a symbol. The world has been destroyed. He has been destroyed.

[37 : 56] And if a signpost is missing, you can't find your way, right? If we are to a place, but the■■■■ is not gone, we will not go to that.

If salt isn't salty, what good is it for? If I don't wear my wedding ring, how will people know I am married? If I don't wear my wedding ring, how will people know I am married?

So, to point to Jesus, we need to be present in our society. We need to be salt of the earth. So, when we are to guide people to go to the path of Jesus, we need to be in the path of Jesus.

We need to be in the path of Jesus. We need to be in the path of Jesus. And likewise, Jesus says in verse 14, just saying the same thing in a different way, you are the light of the world.

If the true light of Jesus shines in you, don't hide it under a bowl. If we are called to let it shine and to shine to our neighbors.

- [39 : 10] We need to be in the path of Jesus. Verse 16 sums it up all for us. It says this, in this way, let your light shine before the people, so that they see your good works and glorify our Father in heaven.

The first verse is actually a conclusion. You are the light of the light as you are in the path of Jesus. Let them see your good works and glorify your good works.

And friends, these good works, they don't save us. They don't replace our need to keep believing in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. These are the people who are in the midst of Jesus.

These are the people who are in the midst of Jesus. But these are the people who are in the midst of Jesus. They don't have to be able to take care of Jesus.

But when we are saved by grace, through faith we are transformed and it results in good works that others will and should notice. When we are saved by Jesus, when we are saved by Jesus, our lives are not the same.

- [40 : 13] These are the people who are in the midst of Jesus. Your classmates will notice when you are not caught up in the same ambitions and passions as they are. And when you work hard at your job and you don't cut corners, your co-workers will notice.

And maybe they will even ask, why do you act this way? Why do you live this way? When we are in the midst of our work, our friends will see our own purpose. Our friends will see.

Or they may ask, why do you do this? And perhaps that opens up the opportunity for you to share about your King who brings true blessing to your life. So what does it look like to be salt and light for you today?

So what does it look like to be salt and light for you today? Maybe it's staying in your mahjong group. Or maybe it's saying yes when your non-Christian friends invite you to something.

Usually you might say no, I wouldn't go. Or that people invite you to something. Or you don't want to go, but you will also join. Maybe you have family dinners often with and your family is not Christian.

- [41 : 38] Maybe you'll stick around and you'll keep going. Or you don't trust Jesus. But you also want to join them in the midst of Jesus. Jesus encourages you to be salt and light for you.

Jesus calls us to be salt and light for you. Because look again how verse 16 ends. It ends with praise to your Father in heaven.

The 16th verse, the last thing is, we have to bring the glory to the Father in heaven. And Jesus knew his Father in heaven, didn't he?

Jesus knew that he could trust and he lived with a Father in heaven, his Father in heaven. Jesus knew that he was always faithful to his Father in heaven.

And knowing his Father intimately gave Jesus the strength to live like this. I am so proud to believe that he was faithful to his Father in heaven. And knowing his Father intimately gave Jesus the strength to live like this.

- [42 : 37] And when you and I, brothers and sisters, are secure in the love that the Father has for us through Jesus, then we also have everything we need to live this truly blessed, true flourishing life.

And we may not change the world.

We may not change all of East Auckland. But by God's grace, PCBC, we can follow Jesus with an upside-down character and a clear presence in our world. We may not change the world.

We may not change the world. But at least, as we are in Jesus Christ, and we are in the center of the world, and we are in the center of the world. We can live with Jesus with an upside-down character and a clear presence in the world.

And in a world that is full of crisis, perhaps living like this will help others to see our Savior and to bring glory to our heavenly Father.

[43:46] And in this world that is full of crisis, we may not change the world.

So in Christ, let us take that road that leads to true flourishing in his kingdom together. So in Christ, let us take that road that leads to true flourishing in his kingdom together. Let's pray. Let's pray. Heavenly Father, thank you that though we are in the world, thank you that though we are poor in spirit, though we have nothing to bring in our own selves.

Thank you that you have seen your Son dying on the cross for our sins.

_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

Thank you that we don't only need to just copy his teachings without any help. but that your spirit lives in us through Jesus, and we can actually live out this blessed life.

[REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED],

[REDACTED].

[45:07] We ask for your help now as we live like this day by day. In Jesus' name, I am.

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