

First Pres Church Sermon Series Bible Study Guides
Dealing with Life~ April-May 2024

Dealing with the Real You
Matthew 5:13-16

Opening...

- What is one thing about your character or abilities that you feel God uses to help other people?
- Pray for this time in God's Word— to hear from the text and from each other as the Holy Spirit leads!

Background...

- **Skim Matthew 5:1-12.** This section starts what we call Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and it begins with the Beatitudes. What kinds of people are blessed? Why and how are they blessed?

Study...

- **Read Matthew 5:13-16.**
- Jesus says that his followers are salt and light. What characteristics of salt and light do you think cause Jesus to use these two metaphors? Discuss both positive and negative characteristics.
- According to verse 16, what is the goal of being salty and bright?
- So what does it really mean for Jesus' followers to be salt and light? In what ways are the blessed people from verses 3-12 salt and light to those around them?
- How might believing that one is salt and light create purpose in life?
- In what ways have you lost your saltiness or are tempted to hide your light?
- What is one thing you can do this week to show your saltiness and to shine your light of good deeds so others might glorify God?
- What could you, as a group, do to be salt and light to others in the next few weeks and months?
- Pray that God would fill you all with his Spirit so you can reflect his glory in beautiful ways.

Matthew 5:1-12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them.

He said:

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.

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.

Matthew 5:13-16

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.