

## COUNTER CULTURAL

Otherworldly - Matthew 5:2-16

October 8, 2017

### I. IN OUR CHARACTER (5:2-12)

- The beatitudes are not ethical commands to become a Christian, but they are ethical responses to having already become a Christian.
- The result of this character is that we will face persecution and ridicule because it is so foreign to the world.
- The persecution we face is because we are Christ's (John 15:18-19; 1 John 3:13; Matthew 10:22; Luke 6:22).

### II. IN OUR CONVICTIONS (5:13)

- We are to be a preserving agent in a rotting world.
- Our convictions will be offensive at times (Isaiah 30:9-11; 2 Timothy 4:1-4) because the Gospel is offensive.
- If we lose our "saltiness" we are good for nothing.

### III. IN OUR COMPASSION (5:14-16)

- We cannot sit on the sidelines and shout instructions...we are called to do good works (Micah 6:8).
- Our compassionate works are illustrative of the incarnation.
- Our works give credibility to our convictions and act as a light that give glory to God.

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please read Matthew 5:2-16

1. Why do you think Jesus finishes the beatitudes with a blessing for persecution?
2. In what ways is the church able to help preserve the culture around it?
3. Are there places in your life where you know you need to be more "salty"? Where are they and how can you go about making a better impact?
4. Why are good works so vital to demonstrating our faith?
5. Why are we prone to not engaging ourselves in the suffering of the world? How can we do better? What areas of social justice move your heart and how can you get involved?
6. In what areas are you drawn to the attractions of the world? How can you discipline yourself to not feel "at home" here?
7. What changes will you make in your life as a result of this sermon?