

- a. Keep and Teach the Word – ¹⁹ “Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”
Disciples of Jesus are forgiven and heaven-bound; therefore, they *should* be constantly seeking to
 ♦know, ♦do, and ♦teach ALL of God’s Holy Word!
- b. BUT never think YOUR DOING makes you Righteous – ²⁰ “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Disciples are called to obedience – YES, *but* – as the same time – *we know that our most righteous efforts will never make us truly righteous in God’s sight!* Therefore, *on one hand*, we do our best, but, *on the other hand*, we **always trust alone in Jesus and His perfect obedience for our salvation!**

Conclusion: Now:

- ✚ Having Jesus as our Savior!
- ✚ Understanding our purpose to function as salt and light!
- ✚ Knowing that Jesus’ fulfillment of the law is our only source of righteousness!

Let us GLADLY function as salt and light ✚ to God’s glory and ✚ to the eternal benefit of others!

And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

Disciples of Jesus –
→ Their Purpose!
→ Their Righteousness!
→ Their Obedience!
 Based on Matthew 5:13-20 NAS
 5th Sunday after the Epiphany – 2011
 February 6 → 8:00 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, last week we began to focus on **the Sermon on Mount**. We considered:

- **The setting** – *Jesus on a mountain teaching His disciples, with the multitudes also listening!*
- **The eight beatitudes** – *which describe people who are blessed (saved) through Jesus!*

Today, *as we continue in the Sermon on the Mount*, let us remember that **Jesus is teaching His disciples**. They are people who have been united to Jesus *by grace through faith!*

1. **Disciples of Jesus – Their Purpose:** Every tool has a purpose; for example, some screwdrivers are for **slotted** screws, some for **Phillips** screws. The forgiven disciples of Jesus also have a purpose: to be → **salt** and → **light to all other people:**

- a. **SALT** – ¹³ “**You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.**” As salt can season food and melt snow, so we –

functioning as salt, thus living as disciples of Jesus – can richly bless those who do not yet know Him as their Savior (see Colossians 4:5-6)! **But what if we stop being salt?** These are some thoughts from Lenski:

- i. “...all believers are salt; **their very faith makes them salt**, and if they are not salt they are not believers.”
- ii. “The Christian who loses his faith **and thus his wholesome effect upon the world** is worse than the man who never had faith.... As bad as it is never to enter the kingdom, **to be thrown out of it is still worse.**” (199-201)

b. **LIGHT** – ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill [literally, on a mountain] cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

- i. As a lamp is lighted so people can see, so Jesus has lighted His disciples to help the world see its sin and Jesus’ saving work! **So LET US SHINE!**
- ii. As we shine let us never do so for our own glory, but **always for the glory of our heavenly Father!**

2. **Disciples of Jesus – Their Righteousness**: Imagine taking a test to get into heaven; **you must get every single question correct!** Would you rather have a test with 500 questions or 10 questions? Sure, 10 would give you a much better chance of getting them all correct! Some

people think Jesus came to *make getting into heaven easier*, but notice what Jesus said:

- a. ¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to abolish [get rid of, eliminate] **the Law or the Prophets** [in other words, the OT Scriptures]; **I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill** [complete, accomplish].” Jesus came to take the test for us, to FULFILL THE LAW – *all of it!* Therefore, He – and HE alone – is the source of our righteousness!
- b. Some saw Jesus as *extremely radical*, possibly trying to ♦change, ♦set-aside, ♦abolish the OT, *BUT that is not true!* He already explained that He came to FULFILL IT; then He went on to say: ¹⁸ “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.” What does that mean? Jesus has fulfilled the OT Scriptures; nevertheless, not the smallest stroke of a pen will be ♦erased, ♦forgotten, ♦done away with! Instead, we should continue to →read, →study, and →understand all that Jesus has fulfilled. In doing so, we will CONTINUE to realize ✦that He is God, ✦that He alone could fulfill, and ✦that He has fulfilled every detail of the OT Scriptures for our salvation! Therefore, through Jesus – THROUGH HIM ALONE – *we are saved, we are righteous in God’s sight!*

3. **Disciples of Jesus – Their Obedience**: Do you remember Jesus’ description of a disciple? Someone who →is baptized in the name of the Triune God AND →is taught all that Jesus commanded so that – knowing it – *he would do it* (Mt. 28:19-20)! With that in mind, what else did Jesus say about the obedience of His disciples?