

Salt and Light

Last week, we heard Jesus describe the Beatitudes and what life looks like in the Kingdom of God. Jesus shows us that God's kingdom does not operate by the values of the world. While the world tells us that blessing comes from success, power, wealth, and self-reliance, Jesus calls blessed those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. God's kingdom is often described as an "upside-down kingdom," where love matters more than status, service more than ambition, and faithfulness more than recognition. When we live by these values, our lives begin to look different, and that difference is meant to be seen.

As Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount, he moves from describing who is blessed to explaining how his people are to live. He tells his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world." Jesus does not say we should try to become salt and light; he says we already are. This is because God's Spirit lives within us. Wherever we go, God's presence goes with us, and we represent Jesus in our everyday lives.

Salt was valuable in the ancient world because it preserved food, added flavour, and encouraged growth. In the same way, Jesus calls his followers to make a positive difference in the world, bringing goodness, grace, and truth into ordinary situations. Light, too, has a purpose: it reveals, guides, and brings hope. A light is not meant to be hidden, and neither is our faith. Our good works are meant to point others to God, not to ourselves.

Jesus also teaches that he came not to abolish the law but to fulfil it, bringing obedience back to the heart. True discipleship is not about outward appearances but about lives transformed by God's Spirit. Our faith is nurtured in worship, but it is lived out in the world. As the body of Christ, we are called to be salt and light—

reflecting God's love so that others may give glory to our Father in heaven.