

Standing Out for the King

Matthew 5:13-20 | Lesson 2

Opening Question: If all Christians (and our church) suddenly disappeared from Indianapolis tomorrow, what differences would our city notice? Why?

Stand Out in a Corrupt World (v. 13).

You must live distinctively.

Christians are called to stand out in a sinful world by living godly lives and resisting evil. Christians should make the world around them better.

You must live faithfully.

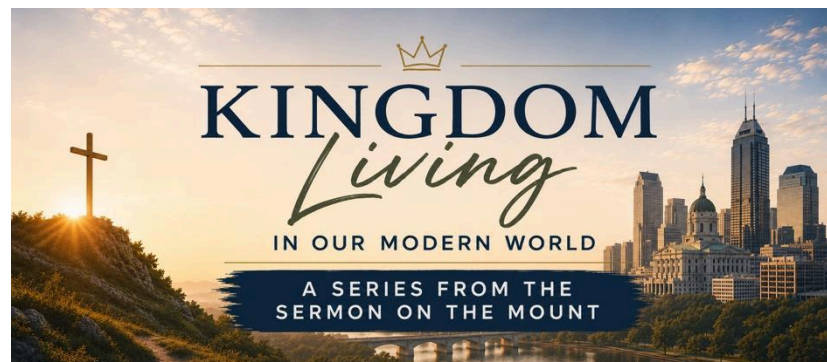
The salt must maintain its usefulness. Otherwise it's good for nothing. Christians must maintain our testimony for the Lord, or else we'll have no kingdom impact.

Stand Out in a Dark World (vs. 14-16).

Your light should shine publicly.

Christians are called to shine publicly for Christ, like a city on a hill that cannot be hidden. Our lives should be noticeably different and point others to Christ.

Your light should shine openly.



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Your light should shine openly.

A light is not meant to be hidden, and neither are Christians! Our relationship with Christ must be an obvious part of our lives.

Your light should shine morally.

The good works of Christians show the light of Jesus to those who walk in darkness. Our good conduct should point others to Jesus!

Your light should shine God's glory.

All of this is done, not so the *light* gets the glory, but the *source* of that light. When Christians sign, God gets the glory.

Stand Out with God's Word (vs. 17-20).

God's Word has authority.

Jesus affirmed the complete authority of God's Word, teaching that He came not to abolish the Law and the Prophets but to fulfill them.

God's Word has specificity.

Every word of Scripture is God's revealed truth, faithfully preserved and graciously translated so that we can know, understand, and follow Him.

God's Word has responsibility.

For those who have God's Word, there is a responsibility to teaching and do it faithfully, not adding to or taking away from it.

God's Word has finality.

Those who try to enter on their own righteousness won't enter the kingdom at all.

Discussion Questions

1. What things could hinder our usefulness as Christians in the world? (salt losing its saltiness)
2. Think of a Christian who has had a positive spiritual influence on your life. What qualities made that person shine brightly for Christ?
3. In what ways does regular exposure to God's Word make a Christian more distinct from the world around him?

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