

**By Being Salt**

**Matthew  
5:13**

**Appropriating The Happiness  
That Is In You**

## **Series Overview**

The beatitudes is a list of attitudes prescribed by Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount that are designed to build on one another to lead a Christian to true joy in Christ.

The attitudes are:

Being poor in spirit, mourning over sin, meekness, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemaking, and willingness to be persecuted for righteousness' sake.

Only Christians that “climb” this superstructure are in a place spiritually to “appropriate the happiness that is in you,” a process that Jesus describes directly after The Beatitudes.

This process of “appropriating the happiness that is in you” similarly builds on itself with the following steps:

By Being Salt, By Being Light, By Being Law Abiding, By Controlling Anger, By Keeping Sex In Marriage, By Shunning Narcissism, By Choosing Wisely, and By Judging Carefully.

## Part One: By Being Salt

*“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 by men.*

Matthew 5:13

In ancient times, salt was a valuable commodity, and in scripture it is used a symbol of:

- 1.) Binding contracts. • *Leviticus 2:13*
- 2.) A cleansing agent. • *2 Kings 2:20*
- 3.) A promoter of peace. • *Mark 9:50*
- 4.) Evident of grace. • *Colossians 4:6*
- 5.) A stimulant of the appetite. • *Job 6:6*
- 6.) A stimulant to our testimony. • *Luke 14:34*
- 7.) Preventing decay and rotteness. • *Matthew 5:13*

Jesus’s statements in Matthew 5:13–14 are in the “emphatic mood,” meaning that you are salt whether you like it or not, or are even aware of it.

Disciples of Jesus are meant to keep our culture from rotting no matter where they are placed.

In 2 Corinthians 2:15–16, Paul says:

*“For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?”*

Our presence is a stinging judgment and a rebuke to the sinful world and rotting culture that we are in.

Jesus goes on to warn His disciples: “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 by men.”

Jesus is not referring to losing one’s salvation here. Jesus is instead warning against losing effectiveness and fruitfulness altogether.

Sodium chloride, the compound we know as salt, is very stable in itself. The only thing that weakens its effectiveness is when it is mixed with contaminants.

The only thing that de-salted salt is good for is being trampled underfoot to make roadways passable.

Every Christian is in danger of losing their effectiveness and influence for Christ.

It is not dependent on our cleverness or personal abilities, but on our distinctness from non-believers: being in the world, but not of the world.

We must remain steadfast in maintaining our distinctness for Christ.