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# Glimpses of the Kin-dom | 'You Are'

## Matthew 5:13–20

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*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*1 Co 1:3. (NRSV)*

::: ONE :::

Today I continue in the preaching series 'Glimpses of the Kin-dom' with the theme for today being only built from two words '**You are**'.

Having listened to the biblical reading from Matthew 5, we have heard Jesus giving an answer. Giving an answer to one of the most moving questions in our life, I guess.

The question: Who am I?

And he delivers to answers to this question:

- You are salt of the earth. And you are
- the light of the world.

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::: TWO :::

YOU ARE – ‘You are the salt of the earth.’

Let us start with these two words ‘You Are’. The question here is: Who is Jesus speaking to?

Verse 1 in chapter 5 reads: ‘(...) *when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.*’

It’s the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. And this sermon is directed to Jesus disciples.

From Matthew’s point of view, this all happens right at the beginning of the discipleship of his disciples.

Nevertheless, he clearly states YOU ARE... This is fascinating in a way.

Today, if you start an apprenticeship, you are the apprentice, the ‘Lehrling’. Once you have finished all your exams, then you are something, someone... a painter, a chef, a nurse, ...

But now, you are the apprentice. And one day YOU will be something, someone...

With Jesus it is different—right from the beginning.

It is not about you becoming someone. Actually, it is not about you, not about me at all. It is about him.

As a follower of Jesus, a disciple of Christ, YOU ARE—YOU ARE salt and light.

### ::: THREE :::

Now, let us look a little closer at the salt, dig a little deeper into this spice.

The people by that time were quite familiar with salt. The Dead Sea with a salinity of 34 percent was not too far, only about 100 km.

Salt was called ‘white gold’ at times. Salt is precious, salt is a preservative, salt is the only spice we need to survive. Salt as a spice is not only added to a dish, it dissolves, it mysteriously finds its way into things. Salt is salt.

And the absence of salt does not only give you the impression of some undefined spice missing. The absence of salt lets things taste bland.

Your breakfast egg without salt—bland.

Baking bread without at least a little bit of salt—bland.

Our bodies without the right amount of salt—unable to survive.

::: FOUR :::

Now, Jesus addresses a sheer impossibility:

Imagine salt losing its saltiness. If salt was not salty anymore, what could it be used for?

Salt not being salty anymore would be like sand. Sand that you sweep up and throw away, out of the house where people trample on it.

But unless salt is not transformed into something else, unless altered its chemical structure, it will always and forever be salt.

As long as you are disciples of Christ you can't be anything else but salt of the earth. You really get into the world and salt is.

And you don't have to fear, you don't have to worry, because nothing can rob the saltiness from the salt. So, engage with this world, salt it, engage with your neighbours, with your friends and colleagues, and also be with those in pain and trouble.

You are there to be salt, against the blandness but to penetrate this world with Gods peace, grace and love—as we see it in the one, we follow, in Christ.

This world cannot exist without Gods salt.

And, YOU ARE the salt of the earth!

::: FIVE :::

And something else is needed:

*1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

*3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.*

Light, the first 'thing' to be created.

The absence of light means darkness, but where there is light the darkness cannot prevail.

Do you hear this message? YOU are the light. Where YOU ARE the darkness has no power anymore.

Jesus really spins the big wheel. You are the light of the world. Ὑμεῖς ἐστε τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου. You are the light of the cosmos. Yes, no smaller than that.

He does not start with, 'you are the light of the neighbourhood', 'you are the light of Giesing, of Munich or even Bavaria...'. You are the light of the cosmos.

And this is because we are reborn in the one of which is said (John 1:1-5):

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*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

In being disciples of this light, we also became light, the light of the world.

::: SIX :::

This might be hard to accept.

I should be light of the world? Seriously?

‘I mean, Jesus, sorry, I think you don’t know me..., you don’t know me with all I do wring, with all these crazy sometimes dark thoughts, with...’

And Jesus says: Stop it! Of course, I know you. I know you so well and love you so much that I am willing to give my life for you.

And because you are with me, because you are in my radiance, you are reborn, and became light of the world yourself.

Yes, you are, who you are. But in Jesus we became—we became salt of the earth and light of the world.

And when we think this is too big for us, Jesus comes, comforts us, he straightens us up, and tells us what beloved and precious beings we are.

As he does today, in the words of the gospel and the celebrating of the Eucharist, the communion at his table.

::: SEVEN :::

Now having heard all this, go into the world and be what you are, act like what you are, speak like what you are.

And when I look around, I see all these wonderful people, disciples of Christ, created, loved, being salt and light of this world.

And I can only imagine what this world is still to become when you go out from here—as salt of the earth and light of the world.

::: Amen.