

MESSAGE # 1: THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES IN LEARNING TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS

Biblical Passages: Matthew 5:13-16

- I. Introducing the Subject: In the course of life one of the easiest things to do is to forget about others and/or set our goals on purely selfish interests. Our difficulties and personal concerns tend to dominate us and may confuse us on the broader aspects of life. The humanitarian parables of which we will presently speak remind us that we have the opportunity to be a blessing to others if we are awake to the possibility of that service. But before going to the parables, I am considering the teaching of the Lord Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Matthew. The Lord is giving instruction to His followers with regard to *their place in the earth and their relationships with others*. He is showing them how the people of God are an undisguised source of help and enlightenment to the world about them. If we understand the potential of this role, we will understand how we are able to show the goodness and love of God to a society that may not seem to care for Him at all but is, in fact, of desperate need of His love and the Gospel of grace that He has given us to share.
- II. Discussion: The principles that lead us to be a blessing to others as noted in Matthew 5:13-16 are basically these three:

A. Have a testimony: be salt

Whether you want to see it in the preserving, enriching, or economic relationship, salt is the believer in this passage. We are to have a preserving testimony that delivers and makes the lives of those who believe to be treasured. Be known as a believer who loves God and who uses his life in the service of God and others. This is primary and it is within the province of every believer.

B. Have a heart of love: be light

Shine before others the glorious truth of God. Don't hide this truth for in so doing one would only increase the darkness that exists already all about us. I am not speaking of some hypocritical pretense of a "holier than thou" ideology but a practical exposure to others of the mercies of the Lord.