

Message From The Mount

Lesson 3

The Citizens In Heaven's Kingdom – Part B (Mt. 5:13-16)

Introduction

After describing the character of the heavenly kingdom citizen (5:3-12), Jesus next discusses the work he is to do in the kingdom. These familiar verses show us what we are to be like...to what we are "similar." Thus, they have been dubbed "*The Similitudes*."

Jesus used simple, yet necessary household items to powerfully drive home the point of the importance of our labors in His kingdom.

The Similitudes

- 1) What is the first comparison? (v. 13) What is its purpose (*important in a "non-refrigerated," primitive 1st century*)?

- 2) Can you think of any N.T. passage(s) that emphasize the Christian as "salt" and his duty to help others avoid the rotting effects of sin?

- 3) What is the second comparison? (vv. 14-16) What is its purpose?

- 4) How can the world be described in connection with this similitude? (Jn. 3:19-20; Col. 1:13)

- 5) What is the kingdom citizen's duty? (Phil. 2:15-16)

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- 6) What can happen to kingdom citizens as "salt" and "light?" What is the application?
(cp. Jn. 17:14-15; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; 2 Cor. 6:14 – 7:1)

- 7) How do these verses prove that citizens of heaven's kingdom cannot preserve their own souls by living somewhere as "hermits" in a protective commune?

- 8) Connect these 4 verses back to the conclusion of *The Beatitudes*. (vv. 10-12) What is the challenge?