

Matthew 5:11-20 (New International Version)

Bible Reading

- Matt. 5:11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
- Matt. 5:12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- Matt. 5:13 “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 underfoot.
- Matt. 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.
- Matt. 5:15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.
- Matt. 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- Matt. 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
- Matt. 5:18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.
- Matt. 5:19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
- Matt. 5:20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Summary

Jesus said, “If you are treated badly because you love me, God will bless you. Be happy because you will have a great reward in heaven. You are like salt for other people. And you are like light for the whole world. So don’t hide your light but let it shine so other people will see the good things you do and praise God, your Father in heaven. All the old writings from God have their full meaning in me. Everything that was written must happen. If you follow the commands from God, you will be great in His kingdom.”

Prayer

(If you want to talk to God about these verses, here is an example of a prayer.)

God, our Father in heaven, We want to follow Jesus. Help us to be light and salt to others so they will also learn to love You. Help us to follow the teaching of Jesus to show that we love You. Amen.

(*Amen* means ‘I approve’ or ‘This is what I want to say.’)

Matthew 5:11-20 Vocabulary

A. Match each word to its picture.

1. salt (vs.13)

2. hill (vs.14)

3. bowl (vs.15)

4. pen (vs.18)



a.



b.



c.



d.

B. Jesus talked about his followers being persecuted, insulted, and slandered. Read the following definitions. Then choose one word and make a sentence.

5. persecute – to treat someone unfairly or badly over time usually for their religious beliefs
6. insult – to offend someone by saying or doing something that is rude
7. slander – to say false things about someone to change other people's good opinion of them
8. sentence _____

C. Match each word to the best definition. Then choose one word to use in a sentence.

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| 9. trampled (vs.13) | e. to become impossible to see or find |
| 10. abolish (vs.17) | f. to step heavily on something so it is crushed |
| 11. disappear (vs.18) | g. to be even better than something else |
| 12. surpass (vs.20) | h. to officially end a law or system |
| 13. sentence _____ | |

D. Fill in the blank with a word from the verse in brackets.

14. What a beautiful day! We are so _____ with this good weather! (vs.11)
15. When I found his missing money, the man gave me a _____ to thank me. (vs.12)
16. No one could find the key to the door. It was _____ under some papers. (vs.14)
17. Tell me _____, do you like the way I cooked this chicken? (vs.18)

Answers: 1.d 2.a 3.b 4.c 9.f 10.h 11.e 12.g 14.blessed 15.reward 16.hidden 17.truly

Matthew 5:11- 20 Questions

Q. 1. Jesus said, "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me" (verse 11). How do people feel when others say untrue things about them?

Q. 2. Tell us about a time when someone was saying untrue things about you.

Q. 3. What do you think it was like for Jesus' listeners when, in his first sermon, he talked to them about being persecuted, insulted, and slandered for him?

Q. 4. Jesus said, "Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven" (verse 12). If you could have a great reward in heaven, what would you want?

Q. 5. Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth" (verse 13). What is salt used for?

Q. 6. In what ways are people like salt?

Q. 7. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden" (verse 14). In what ways are people like light in a high place?

Q. 8. Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (verse 16). How do your good deeds (actions) affect others?

Q. 9. Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them" (verse 17). If you had the power to abolish (get rid of) a law, what law would you abolish?

Q. 10. What things should never be abolished?

Q. 11. Jesus talked about the disappearance of heaven and earth (verse 18). In your own experience, what kinds of things disappear?

Q. 12. Tell us about a time when something you owned disappeared.

Q. 13. Jesus wants people to practice and teach his commands. How would you teach someone to be like salt and light?

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Pictures for Basic Vocabulary Small Group

