

*americans
want roses
that are
thornless &
rootless!*

Satan inspires hope

in anything and
everything but
Christ or a false
view of him.

in OUR
plans for
God.

What do you do when God does not act as
you expected or show up as you hoped?

Kingdom Expectations

Matthew 5

³ Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the **gentle**, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they shall see God. ⁹ Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who have been **persecuted for the sake of righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when men **cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely**, on account of Me.”

¹² Rejoice, and be glad, for **your reward in heaven** is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. ¹³ **You are the salt of the earth**; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. ¹⁴ **You are the light of the world**. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Two contrasting expectations

Salt and Light	Heaven on earth
poor	rich
mourn	happy
gentle	aggressive
long for righteousness	self sufficient
merciful	just
pure in heart	pragmatic
peacemakers	competitive
persecuted	respected
falsely accused	understood

Which way is our compass pointing?

Salt and
Light



Heaven
on earth

Disappointed in Jesus

- ✓ **The Romans** - Jesus fails to bow to the authority of Caesar.
- ✓ **The Jewish authorities** - Jesus fails to support the traditions of the elders.
- ✓ **The Disciples** - Jesus fails to meet their expectations of a temporal deliverer.

Mark 14

"⁴³ And immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up, accompanied by a multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, **"Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him, and lead Him away under guard."** ⁴⁵ And after coming, he immediately went to Him, saying, "Rabbi!" and kissed Him. ⁴⁶ And they laid hands on Him, and seized Him. ⁴⁷ But a certain one of those who stood by **drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear.** ⁴⁸ And Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me, as against a robber? ⁴⁹ Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but this has happened that the Scriptures might be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ And they all left Him and fled.

Two ways to loose your saltiness

**Two different responses to Jesus' arrest
(Judas betrays and Peter defends)
that share one thing in common
(They both take a worldly posture).**

Judas - saved his life
in the short term only to
lose it along with his
soul in the end.

Peter - was willing to
live by the sword but
later would gladly suffer
with and for Christ.

*We must wonder if
there are different ways we betray Jesus?*

Some unexpected displays of denying our faith.

- ✓ Defending our unauthorized expectations of God.
- ✓ Defending the name of Jesus with the tools of the devil. Thinking that means justify ends.
- ✓ Emphasizing the values of the Kingdom while ignoring the King.
- ✓ Saying all the right things but refusing to take our baptism vows seriously.

Mark 14

"⁶⁶ And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷ and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him, and said, "You, too, were with Jesus the Nazarene." ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, **"I neither know nor understand what you are talking about."** And he went out onto the porch. ⁶⁹ And the maid saw him, and began once more to say to the bystanders, "This is one of them!" ⁷⁰ **But again he was denying it.** And after a little while the bystanders were again saying to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean too." ⁷¹ **But he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about!"** ⁷² And immediately a cock crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, "Before a cock crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And he began to weep."

Peter loses his saltiness.

- ✓ Peter was right - he never really knew Jesus or his Kingdom.
- ✓ Peter was a bold disciple until his temporal, security was threatened.
- ✓ Peter was in danger of losing more than his life by trying to save it.

Falling away

Regret

Abiding faith

*Both Judas and Peter
rejected Christ.*

*Both Judas and Peter
saw what their sin did to
Christ and regretted it.*

*Peter would abide to see
what Christ did to his sin
while Judas would not.*

*Our sin separates us from God
but it is our response to sin
that determines our ultimate fate.*

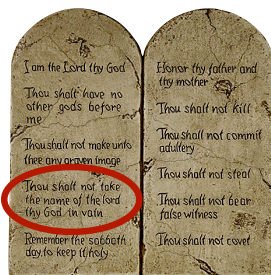
John 15

"¹ I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ **Abide in Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing ⁶ **If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.**"

Being IN but not OF the world.

When we are not in tune with what God is doing our response to His actions will show it.

**THE THIRD COMMANDMENT
TAKING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN**



"Dirty words"
- were not in the Biblical view but associated with it much later.

"Swearing"
- Calling on God's name to judge oneself or another was in view.

"Name theft"
- confusing our plans with God's plans?

Signs that my compass may be pointing South

- ✓ God's love entitles me to prosper in this life and faith enables me to.
- ✓ My chief motivation to obey is to avoid punishment or social shame and to get a temporal blessing.
- ✓ When I fail, I withdraw socially to save face and avoid embarrassment.
- ✓ I expend a lot of energy building and protecting my public image.

How can I get my compass pointed in the right direction?

- ✓ **Stop and think** - Don't impulsively react in a defensive way to life's challenges.
- ✓ **Remember** - Christ has forgiven me so much. (Matt.18:21-35)
- ✓ **Empathize** - and bear one another's burdens.
- ✓ **Be Thankful** - for the opportunity to know Christ & love others.
- ✓ **Take your baptism seriously.**



When I feel God has let me down

- ✓ **Stop and think** - Is my hope in my plans or God's plans.
- ✓ **Remember** - The testimony of the first disciples.
- ✓ **Empathize** - with the suffering of Christ.
- ✓ **Be Thankful** - for a living hope not a realized hope.
- ✓ **Take your baptism seriously.**

