

“Justice And Change”
Matthew 5:13-16
Sermon Series: “True Justice In An Unjust World”

Main Idea: Be the change.

1. Be changed by Jesus. We are the “salt of the earth” and “light of the world.” This is because Jesus is in us though. What Jesus tells us to do here flows out of who we are. Identity produces activity. We should work to change the world because we have been accepted and changed by Jesus instead of to get accepted by Him. The Beatitudes were spoken to the disciples.

Acts 26:17-18. John 3:1-3

2. Live like we have been changed.

Don't live like polluted salt or hidden light.

Zodhiates: foolish (moraino). To make dull, not acute, to cause something to lose its taste or the purpose for which it exists, e.g., salt not being able to make things salty (Matt.5:13; Luke 14:34).

Need for sanctification; if we want to change the world, let Jesus transform us from the inside out

3. Be God's change agents in the world.

How?

A. Through people seeing our changed lives

B. Through good works done with the motive of the glory of God

C. Through interacting with people in the world. Salt has to be poured into food to do any good. Light can't be covered up. It has to shine in the darkness. We are to be in the world but not of the world. Church can't be a bomb shelter to hide from the world. John 17:18 says, “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”

-The Cultural Mandate (Genesis 1:27-28, Jeremiah 29:4-7)

2000 BFM: XV. The Christian and the Social Order

“All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.”

-The Great Commandment (Luke 10:27)

-The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

-First Love on Main Street - <https://www.firstloveonmain.org/> - providing dental and medical services to the underserved

-Knoxville Street Hope Ministries - <https://streethopetn.org/> - Working with child victims of human trafficking

-Life Outreach Pregnancy Center - <http://www.lifeoutreachcenter.net/partners.html> - Offering counsel and services for pregnant women

-The Pregnancy Crisis Center in Morristown - <https://www.morristownpcc.org/> - The Center is a support system for women and girls that find themselves facing an unplanned pregnancy.

-Appalachian Outreach - <https://aoministry.org/> - A poverty relief ministry equipped to serve impoverished families through word and deed.

-New Creation Homeless Ministry - <https://newcreationcommunityoutreach.com/> - Feeding the homeless of Morristown

-New Creation Building Renovation - <https://newcreationcommunityoutreach.com/> - Helping renovate their new building.

-Samaritan House - <https://aoministry.org/how-we-serve/samaritan-house/> - A shelter for single women and families.

-Kingswood Home for Children - <https://www.kingswoodkids.org/> - Kingswood provides a safe, Christian home for children who need it most.

-Jefferson County Nursing Home - <https://jcnh.org/> - contact LeAnn Phillips about sending messages to residents

-Boys and Girls Clubs of Jefferson County - <https://bgcdumplinvalley.org/> - The clubs are providing virtual learning locations for students so that they can have access to reliable internet. They have a need for people that have an education background (retired or homeschool) to help in this endeavor.