

Sept. 20

NEXT STEPS



Surprise The World "The Real Deal"

Matthew 5:13–20

Questions to *Dig Deeper*:

1. Salt is an additive meant to enhance flavor—it isn't the whole meal, and it isn't the "main character." How might viewing our role as salt change how we interact with others in our workplaces, families, or community groups? What is the difference between subtly enhancing a space and trying to "fix" or control everyone in it?
2. Jesus calls us to let our light shine so that people see our good deeds and glorify God—not ourselves. In a culture driven by "likes," social validation, and personal branding, what does it practically look like to live a life that points people past us and toward God?
3. Reflecting on the bank teller story (learning the real currency so well that the counterfeit stands out immediately), how can we build a deeper familiarity with the real Jesus revealed in Scripture? What are some modern "cultural add-ons" or political assumptions that people often mistake for biblical Christianity?
4. It is for cultural phrases—like adding "and hate your enemy" to "love your neighbor"—to twist God's original intent. Have you ever realized that a long-held religious assumption or belief was shaped more by culture, tradition, or family than by the Bible itself? How did you navigate that realization?
5. If living out the Sermon on the Mount is meant to "surprise the world with grace, purpose, and faithfulness," what is one specific, radical act of generosity, hospitality, or love you could show this week to someone outside your usual social or religious circle?