

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Standing on the Promises of God - -

1 Corinthians 15:57 “. . . thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Lord and His twelve disciples had just climbed up the mountain, away from the crowds, for some private instruction.

Matthew 5:1-2

¹ When Jesus **saw** the crowds [**εἶδον** - He *perceived* their motivation], He **went up** [**ἀναβαίνω** - *climbed up or ascended*] the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² He opened His mouth and *began to teach them. . .*

The sermon was designed for the disciples' education and training prior to being sent out to the nation Israel with the message of the kingdom and the King.

The salt and light analogies - -

Matthew 5:13-14

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world.”

The Lord likens the disciples to **SALT** and to **LIGHT**.

✓ The Lord is speaking figuratively here.

Salt functioned as a *preservative* in the ancient world.

- ✓ Romans used salt products from the port of Ostia to preserve their commodities.
- ✓ Everything was built around the salt ports or salt routes of supply.
- ✓ What is a preservative designed to do? Prevent something from decay.

Preservative function only works where there is contact!

Can a piece of fish be preserved with salt if there is no contact with the salt? NO!

As salt must come into contact with a commodity to prevent decay, so the disciples must come into contact with a commodity to prevent decay.

What is the commodity the disciples were to preserve?

- They were told – vs. 13 **“You are the salt of the earth;”**
- Where is the kingdom going to be established?
 - ✓ On earth

γῆς – GES – “Earth” – literally soil, land, or the inhabited globe – as such, the people that inhabit the earth.

People being those who will enter the kingdom [when it is instituted] because they have believed in the King and received the righteousness required to enter the kingdom.

- ✓ The disciples must come into contact with those who will be subjects of the kingdom.
- ✓ That contact is going to prevent decay.

- decay of the kingdom subjects so far, and
- decay of the promise of that kingdom – a kingdom that is not yet present.

✓ The stage was being set for the establishment of the kingdom.

What had been accomplished, thus far?

1. John the Baptist had prepared the way for the nation Israel to receive her promised Messiah-King (**Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-5**).

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord.’ ”

2. Many had been identified with the kingdom through John’s baptism and identified the promised King (**Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:5; John 1:35-37**).

Mark 1:5

5 And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

3. Prophecy had been fulfilled and divine authority and power demonstrated by Jesus [*emphasizing His person – as a man*], thus authenticating Him as Messiah (**Matthew 1:1, 22-23; 2:6 cf. 2 Samuel 7:12a; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Hosea 11:1; Luke 7:22 cf. Isaiah 35:5; Luke 4:14-21 cf. Isaiah 61:1**).

2 Samuel 7:12 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

Matthew 1:1 “The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David. . . .”

Luke 7:22 And He answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: *the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.*”

4. The religious types were mounting a counterattack to prevent Messiah’s momentum (**John 5:15-18; Mark 2:16, 24; 3:6**).

John 5:15-18

15 The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. **16** For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. **17** But He answered them, “**My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.**” **18** For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

Mark 3:6

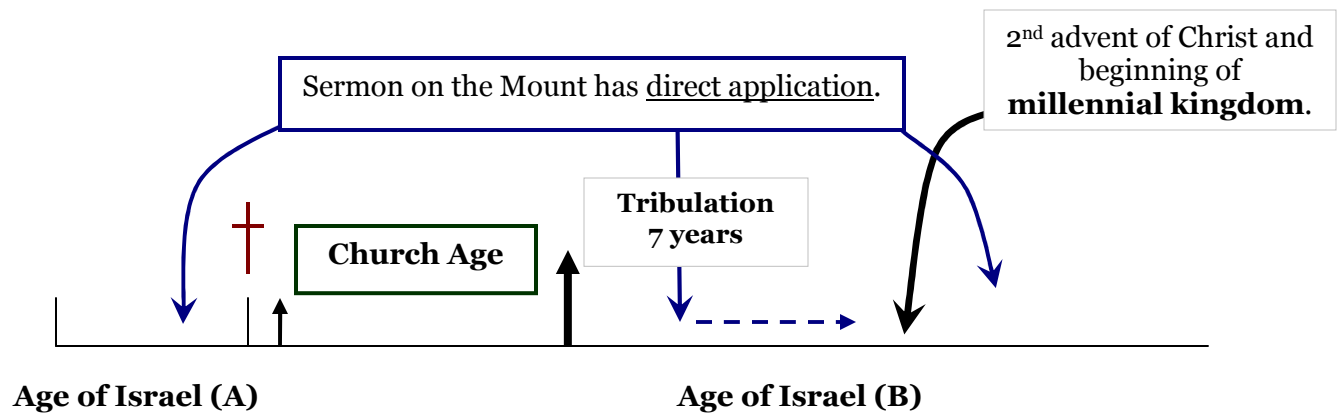
6The Pharisees went out and immediately *began* conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.

5. Therefore, Jesus Christ selected the twelve as a **force multiplier**.

Force multiplier -

- ✓ Multiplies your forces
- ✓ Increases your forces’ effectiveness
 - Call out the subjects of the kingdom through **preaching** the kingdom message.
 - **Educate** the subjects to prepare them to function effectively in the kingdom when it is instituted.

When the disciples are sent out, they must come into contact with the subjects to prevent the decay of what had thus been accomplished.



- Is contact enough? **No**
- They must also do what the Lord has for them to do.
- The disciples must fulfill what the Lord has for them to do in contact with the people who have believed in Jesus as Messiah.
 - They ARE Apostles of the Kingdom.
 - They ARE NOT Apostles of the Church.

Matthew 5:13

13 ***“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless [lost preservative value; not functioning as it should function], how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.”***

- Once salt loses its taste, it loses its preservative value and, in the ancient world, it was thrown out on the streets where people walked.
- The disciples, as they functioned in accordance with their divine design, would prevent the decay of what had thus been accomplished.

Once the King is rejected and cut off, the disciples are sent out to organize and educate a different group of kingdom subjects.

- Those who are subjects in the kingdom of Christ’s body, the Church

They change from being Apostles of the Kingdom to Apostles of the Church once the nation rejects her King!

- For the **Church** to be preserved from decay, the apostles had to fulfill the will of Christ **in contact** with fellow members of the body of Christ.
- For the Church to be preserved from decay today, we have to come into *contact* with each other as we do what Christ has for us to do.

POD - The spiritual supply line effectively functions through contact with one another to prevent decay in the life of the believer.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.