

Children and families talk for Sunday 5th February 2023

Hello everyone!

Thanks for joining me today to look at another bible passage together. Today's bible reading continues from last week's 'The sermon on the mount', when Jesus went up on a mountainside to speak to and teach the people who were following him. Today we have Scorch and Dylan to take us through the reading.

Matthew 5: 13-20.

Dylan: Jesus said; ³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its salty taste, it cannot be made salty again. It is good for nothing. It must be thrown out for people to walk on.

Scorch: No way! There is no way you are throwing me out and walking all over me!!

Dylan: Hahaha! Jesus didn't mean it like that! Salt was very important for helping to preserve things, cos they didn't have fridges and freezers like we do.

Scorch: I don't care how important it was – I still don't want to be thrown out and trodden on.

Dylan: me neither! But I think Jesus meant, if we aren't doing good, then we aren't worth much in God's Kingdom. Let's read the next bit;

¹⁴ "You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ And people don't hide a light under a bowl. They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all the people in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven.

Scorch: Oh, yeah, I like to be a shining light, like that song we sing; "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, all the time"

Dylan: Exactly like that! If we show others God's goodness by how we behave towards others, it's like shining God's light into the world, and it spreads so that others will also want to shine out. Jesus also said;

¹⁷ “Don’t think that I have come to destroy the law of Moses or the teaching of the prophets. I have not come to destroy their teachings but to do what they said. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth. Nothing will disappear from the law until heaven and earth are gone. The law will not lose even the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter until all has happened.

Scorch: Why did Jesus say that?

Dylan: Well, Jesus knew that the teachers and religious leaders thought he had come to change the way the law was written, and they were afraid of change. But Jesus just wanted to help them to understand the law better, so that they didn’t get so tied up with ways of doing things, but instead concentrated on the real message of God’s love.

Scorch: So, Jesus wanted to help them to understand the Bible better?

Dylan: Yes, you could say that, the bible as they knew it was just made up of scrolls of laws and history from the Old Testament, because the New Testament hadn’t been written. Then Jesus said:

¹⁹ Whoever refuses to obey any command and teaches other people not to obey that command will be the least important in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys the law and teaches other people to obey the law will be great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ I tell you that you must do better than the teachers of the law and the Pharisees. If you are not better than they are, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Scorch: Wow! That sounds like a warning.

Dylan: Oh, yes, Jesus doesn’t hold back when he wants to teach people the importance of something. Jesus wants us all to do the right thing so that we can be right with God. When we do the wrong things it puts up a barrier between us and God, and if we continue to do wrong, we won’t be able to have that relationship with God.

Scorch: But what if I’ve already done something wrong?

Dylan: Noone is perfect, we all do wrong things sometimes, but if we are sorry, God is a forgiving God. Just try not to do wrong things in the future.

Scorch: Phew! That’s ok then, because I really am sorry.

Sandy:

Let's talk to God now:

Thank you, loving father, for lighting up our days, and for showing us the way.

Thank you for being with us when we work and play, and for helping us when things are difficult.

Thank you for making us like shining lights who can share your love with all we meet.

Amen

And let's say the grace together:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

The love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

Be with us all, now and forever more,

Amen.

Here is the children's activity page from Roots: [activity-sheet-5-february-2023-bw.pdf](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-5-february-2023-bw.pdf)
([rootsontheweb.com](https://www.rootsontheweb.com))