

# Ridin' High Cowboy Church

Union Valley, TX

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**Introduction:** Nicknames ... in the NFL, we have Ed "Too Tall" Jones, Deon "Prime Time" Sanders, Roger "The Dodger" Staubach...while in the rodeo world, we have Trevor "King of the Cowboys" Bazile and Roy "Super Looper" Cooper!

You might be surprised to know that God used this tactic all the time ~  
Abram – Abraham "Father of Great Nations"  
Simon – Peter the Rock, of the Church  
Jacob "grabber" – God changed it to Israel "upright with God."

In today's passage, Jesus gives his followers a nickname. This is a famous message where Jesus taught God's value system.

Jesus said things like... Anger is as bad as murder  
Lust is as bad as adultery  
Keeping your word, yes is yes and no is no  
Forgive instead of getting revenge  
Love enemies  
Giving to the poor  
Praying is to God not people  
Sacrifice now for better things later  
Possessions are temporary, God is eternal  
Worry  
Judging others – look at yourself first

Then he gave this name or branding, even though they had no political power or influence, most of these people were down and out with bad health...

## **Matthew 5:13**

### **13 "You are the salt of the earth."**

Everyone knew the context of salt in their culture. It was more for preserving than for taste. Jesus was saying that as spoiled as the world is your presence as a follower of these values will preserve it.

These people must have thought who are we to show others how to live? We're nobody's doing nothing jobs!

Jesus was saying that the things I am teaching are not common to mankind, they have to be learned. So God wants us to “rub” off on the people around us so that these things become normal to people. You were not born with a high value of human life, you grew up in a culture and family that taught that by their actions, not everyone thinks this way...Jesus was born into a time when “might made right” if you had the might, you decided what was right.

What if these things Jesus taught were suddenly taken away ...?

1. The idea of One God
2. All people are created in God’s image and have value – men, women, rich, poor, slave, free
3. Forgiveness – this is not common to man and does not exist in all Cultures (Islam does not teach forgiveness) just revenge
4. Marriage is sacred.

When Jesus said this he was saying we are the preservatives of the world just by making an appearance and living out our values. You are the conscience or reminder to the world about God’s values.

***But if the salt loses its saltiness*** Greek word *mor eye know*) which means “a lack of wisdom” if the right thing to do becomes the wrong thing to do, there is no hope - all things you take for granted as right and wrong become backwards. ***How can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.*** (most salt came from salt marshes. The people would find plants, wood and rocks that were full of salt and they would rub those plants on the meat. Whatever needs salt extracts it from that which has it. When the plant lost all the salt they would throw it in a low spot to make the yard or road flat.

Jesus was saying you are the hope of the whole world, our only purpose is to be salt. Salt always makes a difference even if you don’t think so ...

In the location God has planted us ...  
You’re the salt of your school, teacher  
You’re the salt of your company, your office

Then he goes on and says ...

***14 “You are the light of the world.*** This was a reference from the book of Isaiah about how when the Jews won a battle or got wealthy, that was a sign to the other nations of how great their God was. Jesus said it’s not just the nation of Israel or US, something about you personally tells the world what God is up to, the way you live points others to how great your God is.

***A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bow. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light***

**shine before others, that they may see** (Jesus is saying that we should embrace that we are lights, and do things to let people see not only who you are but make the connection to how Good your God is) **your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.**

Two Unavoidable Implications

1. According to Jesus You are strategically place where you are for a purpose. (we say things like, I don't even want to be here, this is random, I can't wait to leave where I am as soon as I can, I was born here)
  - a. Everyone in Jesus audience thought that too
  - b. Everyone feels that their life is random (think about the people God used to draw you to him) we think God led them to us, they thought they were just doing something common)
2. What can I do to help people connect the dots between who I am and what I believe in.

I'll tell you how I know this works, the fact that you are sitting here today is a result of someone being salt and light in your life. God did not speak to you in bed one day and say, "Get up and go to Ridin High ... most likely, someone invited you.

If you feel disconnected with your life most likely you have refused to live out your purpose to preserve the world and be a light to direct them.