

A scenic landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. In the background, a large, dark mountain rises against a sky filled with soft, colorful clouds. The foreground is dominated by large, smooth, grey rocks scattered across a grassy field. A dirt path winds through the middle ground, leading towards the mountain. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and majestic.

SERMON

On the

MOUNT

Homework Review

A scenic landscape photograph serves as the background. In the foreground, there are large, smooth, reddish-brown rocks. The middle ground shows a valley with green fields and a winding road. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under a sky with a bright sunset or sunrise, creating a warm, golden glow.

- How important is Salt in your life?
- How important is Light in your life?
- As an allegory or picture these two items point to specific characteristics in the believers life. What do you think they are?

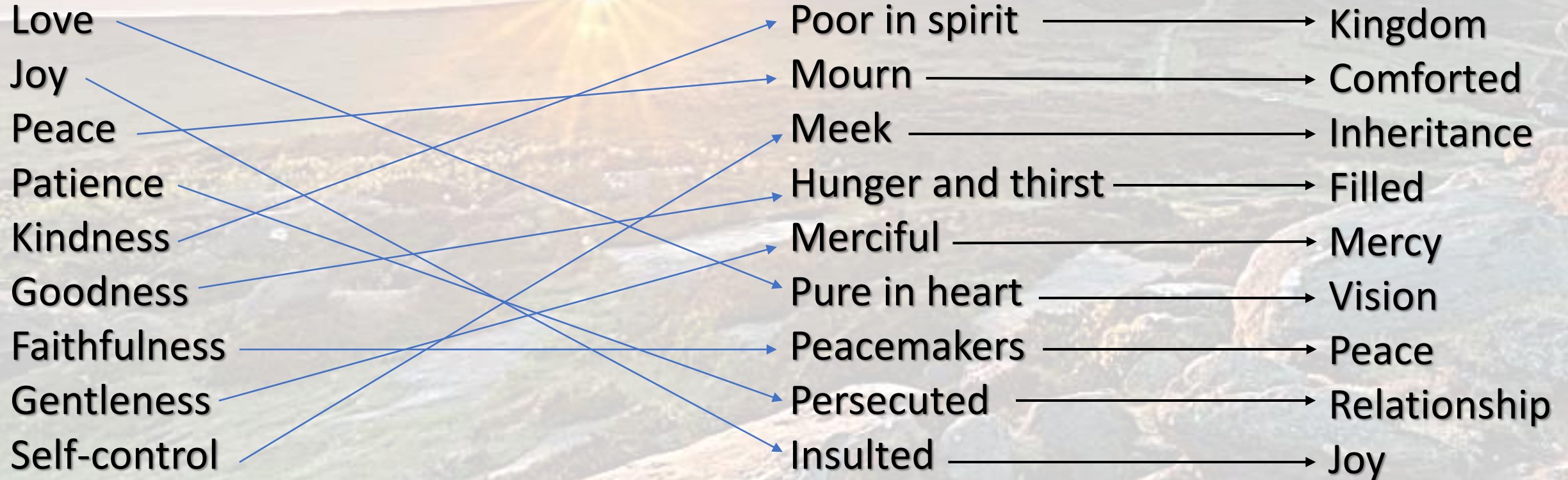
Nine to Nine Exercise

Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22-23

Love
Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness
Goodness
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-control

Beatitudes Matthew 5:3-11

Poor in spirit → Kingdom
Mourn → Comforted
Meek → Inheritance
Hunger and thirst → Filled
Merciful → Mercy
Pure in heart → Vision
Peacemakers → Peace
Persecuted → Relationship
Insulted → Joy



What is the difference between teaching and preaching?

Preaching

- It is an art
- You can teach preaching
- Preaching is about urgency
- Acceptance
- Logical progression to action
- Preaching is the why of action.
- Persuasion
- Is showing the path
- Salvation
- Preaching is painting a portrait

Teaching

- It is a science
- You can not preach teaching
- Teaching is about patience
- Knowledge
- Transfer of understanding
- Teaching is the what of action
- Enablement
- Is the method of waking on that path
- Discipleship
- Teaching is paining a house

The Message of Jesus on the mountain

- Sermon was to a specific audience.
 - Disciples – Matthew 5:1,2
 - Probably there were others characterized by the word Crowd in Matthew 7:28
 - There was some level of commitment to be on that mountain side
 - There was some level of commitment to hear what this young Rabbi had to say.
 - Some were most likely part of John the Baptist's group (in jail) (repentant)

Introduction to the Message

- BEATITUDES

- Characteristics of true discipleship
- Humble, repentant, patient, craving, compassionate, merciful, peaceable, tolerant, and joyful.
- The first seven is about what disciples **are**.
- The last two is about **how** a disciple reacts to non-disciples. -- Tolerant and joyful

A Disciple's reaction to the inevitable.

Matthew 5:10-12

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you..

Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, 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.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a [c]basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.



What is our reaction?

Salt

- Purity – its white
- Flavor enhancing
- Sings a wound
- Creates thirst
- Stops decay
- Valuable

Light

- Illuminate
- Make visible
- Burn
- Full of color
- Dispels darkness
- No life without it

Our reaction as disciples is very important



Our reaction determines quality and quantity

- It is our choice to muddy our SALT
- It is our choice to cover our LIGHT

So what does Salt and Light and our choice to muddy and hide have to do in the context of the Sermon introduction?

What kind of reactions can there be?

- Retreat like Turtles
- Strike back like a Rattlesnake
- Blend in like a Chameleon
- Give up and give in like fainting goat
- Basking in the Light with Joy
- ONE MORE..

The reduction of Salt and Light

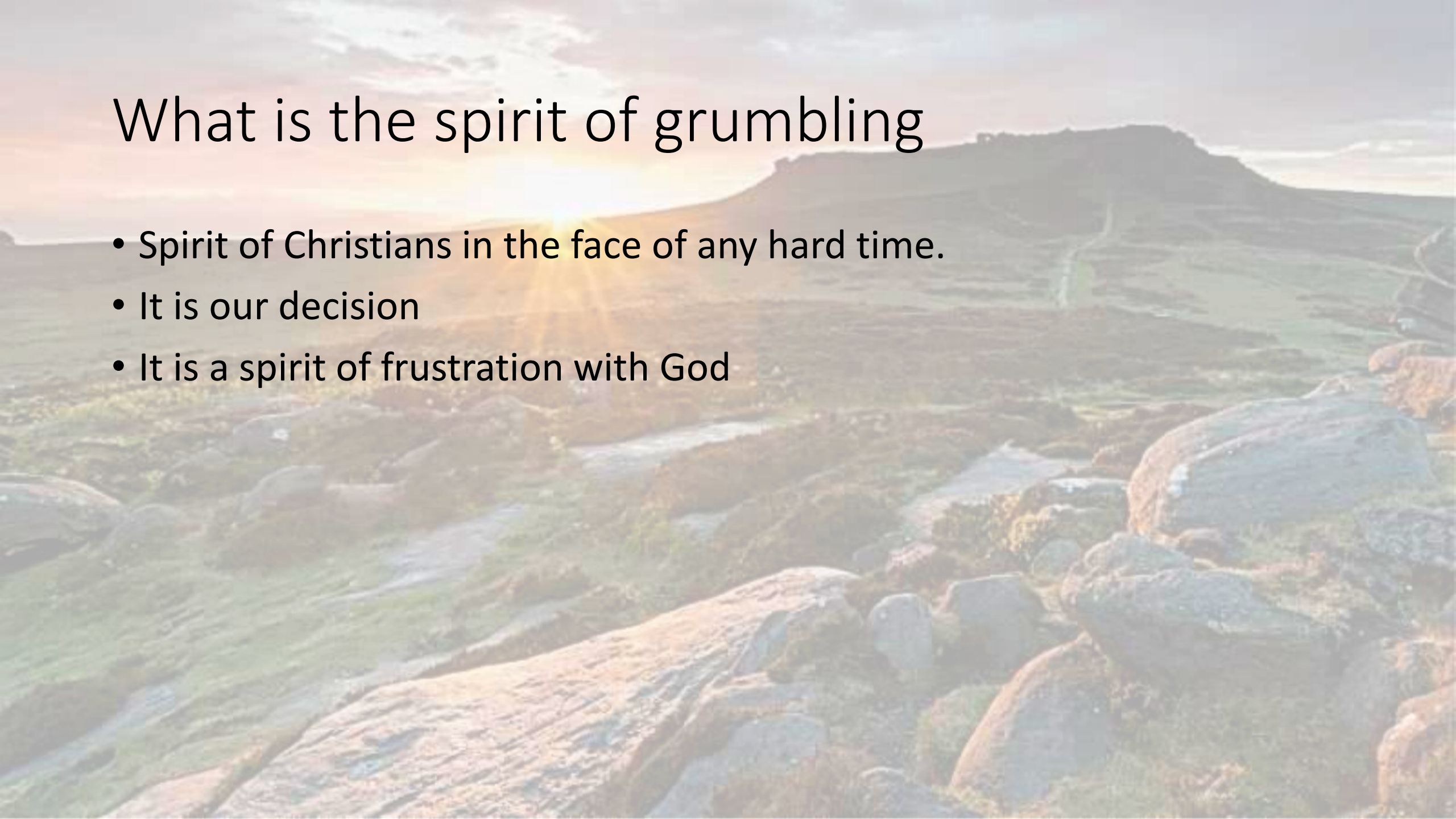
- Salt to loose its saltiness – because of something we do
- Light under a bushel – because of something we do.

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵ so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

What is the spirit of grumbling

- Spirit of Christians in the face of any hard time.
- It is our decision
- It is a spirit of frustration with God



What is Grumbling

- It is a substitute for lashing out
- It is a substitute for doing something about the problem
- It is a substitute for reliance upon God
- WE GRUMBLE
 - Under our breath and to our friends
 - We let it fester inside of us
 - We dwell on the issue
 - “We were right”
 - “I know better than the preacher and the board and all the teachers.
 - “They should have listened to me.”
- It steals our JOY of the now.

What do you complain about?



Prayer Requests



Next week

- Read Matthew 5:17-20 as part of your devotions.
 - Please note as you study this portion it is the start of a first major point in the Sermon of Jesus on the mount.
- Try to translate 5:17 in your own words.
- In your opinion, sort the following words in importance to your life:
 - Righteousness
 - Law
 - Kingdom
 - Commands
 - Teachings
 - Prophecy