

Salt of the Earth, Light of the World

Gospel of Matthew, Part 21

Matthew 5:13-16

Sermon Outline

I. The Affirmation

- A. Christians are valuable. (Mt. 6:26)
- B. Christians are different. (I Pt. 2:9)
- C. Christians are to be missional. (Jn. 17:15-18)

II. The Implications

- A. The world is decaying (2 Tim. 3:13) and dark. (Jn. 3:19)
- B. Christians are to **influence** the world around them.
 - 1. We are to be a preservative against decay.
 - 2. We are to illumine the darkness.
- C. The beatitudes show us the way.

III. The Qualification

- A. Salt can become useless:
If the salt has become tasteless. . . (5:13)
- B. Light can be hidden.
No one puts a lamp under a basket. . . (5:14)

IV. The Application

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. (5:16)

- A. Who: *before men*
- B. How: *in such a way that they may see*
- C. What: *your good works*
- D. Why: *glorify your Father who is in heaven*

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Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. Read Matthew 5:1-16. What is the relationship between the beatitudes in 1-12 and the challenge of 13-16?
2. How would Jesus' original audience have heard these metaphors that Jesus uses? How do we hear them? Why are salt and light useful and valuable?
3. What does Jesus affirm about our identity as Christians? Is our value inherent or instilled? What are the two contrasts that Jesus establishes? How are Christians different? Why are Christians different? Because of something in us?
4. Why does the gospel kill all boasting about distinctiveness?
5. What does the word missional imply? What does it mean? How do these verses affirm our missional identity? What is our mission? Why are we here? What is the one thing that can be done better here than in heaven?
6. In this affirmation of Christians, what is implied about the world? What is implied about the role of Christians?
7. How do the beatitudes show us the way to be salt and light?
8. How do Christians preserve a decaying world? How do Christians illumine a dark world? How can we do these better? Where has God placed you to influence others?
9. How can a business owner or professional serve as salt and light? How can a good biblical marriage serve as salt and light? How does parenting provide an opportunity to serve as salt and light? How does neighborhood hospitality function as salt and light? How might our church picnics serve as salt and light? How can ministry to the poor, downtrodden and hurting be salt and light?
10. According to v. 16, what is the ultimate purpose for our serving as salt and light?