

“We Are Salt and Light to the World”

Sermon on the Mount Series

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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are from the NIV Bible.

“You are the Salt of the Earth!”

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men” Matthew 5:13 (NKJV).

- Symbolically, salt implies purity, loyalty, and either desolation or fruitfulness. (The Revell Bible Dictionary; Baker Book House 1994, p. 885)
- The word “you” is emphatic, meaning “you, my followers.”
- Jesus was saying that if we want to make a difference in the world, we must be different from the world.
- If we are too much like the world, we are useless. We lose our saltiness.
- God will hold us accountable to maintain our saltiness.

Titus 2:11-13 “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”

- “Our lives, whether we are aware or not either count for God or against Him. There simply is no middle ground.” [W. Phillip Keller. Salt for Society. (Waco: Word Books, 1981) p. 145-149]

Covenant of Salt – A Formal Commitment to Lifelong Loyalty

2 Chronicles 13:5 “Don’t you know that the LORD, the God of Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by a covenant of salt?”

- Binding relationships were established by giving a gift of salt at a shared meal. It indicates a formal commitment to lifelong loyalty.

Numbers 18:19 “Whatever is set aside from the holy offerings the Israelites present to the LORD I give to you and your sons and daughters as your regular share. It is an everlasting covenant of salt before the LORD for both you and your offspring.”

YOU are the SALT of the EARTH!

- In the Greek it is literally “You and you alone are the salt of the earth.”

“How can we be salt when we are working? Most jobs, even the humdrum kind, provide opportunities for saltiness. We can solve problems, keep equipment working, and serve human needs. Christians ought to be proud of their work. Next time you think you are going nowhere in a boring job, consider your work as a “thank you” to God for the salvation Christ gave you. Do your job with skill and commitment as a missionary in the marketplace, salting your small corner of the world with God’s message of renewal and joy.” Life Application Bible Commentary, Matthew, p. 84.

“You are the Light of the World!”

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” Matthew 5:14-16 (NKJV).

Jesus’ followers reflect his light to the world.

“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life’” John 8:12 (NKJV).

A COMMAND TO SHINE

Matthew 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Shine – Greek word - **G2989** – λ - lampō - A primary verb; to *beam*, that is, *radiate* brilliancy (literally or figuratively): - give light, shine.

- Jesus is the light, and our lives should reflect that light.
- Shine right where you are!

THE SPOT LIGHT

“...that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16b

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Jesus says we are to shine before others so they will see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven.

Your testimony should always point beyond you.

“Give your ego a break, and give the honor to God.”

Philippians 2:12-13 “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”

Romans 1:16 “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”