

## **Matthew 5:13-16**

### **Salt and Light**

#### **(The King and His Kingdom)**

13 “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.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 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. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

**Watched old movies: When I was a kid – my dad!  
Brought back memories**

**A)For those of you who can remember your childhood, - Your preteen – because this tends to change – with teenagers –**

**Aa)But if you can remember back that far – Do you remember how great you felt guys when your dad – asked you to help him with something.**

**B)Toy lawn mower – so cool.**

**C)Or girls – Recall how special it was when mom invited you into the kitchen to help her bake.**

**Maybe it is hard for you to remember that as a child – but perhaps you can remember your own son’s reaction – Help you – How excited he was.  
A)He stood like you – toy tool belt on – helping dad**

**B)Your daughters first Apron - Moving from her toy kitchen to the big Kitchen**

**C)Now here is the thing – we didn’t need our kids help – in fact often times having them be a part made the task – longer – harder**

**D)But we did that because – we wanted them to learn –and we knew they would be excited – it was to bless them**

**There is a similar truth as it relates to God!**

**A)God is working in the world – He invites us to be a part of what He is doing**

**B)Not because he needs it but because he desires to use us –**

**C)Where this starts: Is in our realizing –  
BECAUSE OF OUR CONNECTION TO JESUS –  
WE ARE SOMETHING**

**1)You ARE salt – YOU ARE – LIGHT**

**D)More than wanting to DO SOMETHING – HE WANTS US TO BE SOMETHING**

**D)The call to do WILL COME LATER – BUT Here Jesus is wanting them to REALIZE WHAT THEY ARE – AND SIMPLY BE THAT**

**WE ARE SOMETHING – because we have been saved – HIS Spirit is inside us – We are and walk in that reality**

**A)SO much of the NT is directed at this REALITY – Ephesians 1-3 The wealth of the believer – Who you are IN CHRIST – In Him – IN Christ**

**B)Because of that CH. 4 WALK IN THIS WAY!**

**C)BE WHO YOU ARE IN Christ – Not who you were apart from Christ!**

**D)That is a heartbeat statement of the NT – Know who you are – Be that**

**1)Let that influence the way you live!**

**Clear in our passage: You ARE the salt of the earth – You ARE the light of the world.**

**A)WHAT does that mean – what does that look like – my aim today is to make this extremely practical**

**B)But at the same time- Motivate you to pray: Lord what does this look like in my world – my sphere of influence?**

**C)Begin by talking THE VALUE OF SALT – NEW TESTAMENT DAYS**

**THE VALUE OF SALT!**

**A)Roman soldiers were paid in salt – Salarium – get our English word Salary from it “worth his weight in salt.”**

**B)Salt rations were valuable to them & would revolt if they changed.**

**C)THE USES OF SALT**

**Salt brought healing:** The Roman soldier would often rub salt into their wounds on the battle field – so valuable – life saving

A) Baseball – tell story- triple - Red clay – leg scraped- So you know what I did to get better quickly – went to the beach – SALT WATER

B) BUT SALT ON A WOUND STINGS – uncomfortable but it is needed

C) How can WE be used to bring healing?

Peacemaker

A) POOR IN SPIRIT – my own bankruptcy – mourn my own sin

Merciful – He has shown me mercy.

B) Seek to be a peacemaker - speak the truth- but in love –

1) Like salt – the truth can sting – My Dentist – this is going to hurt – pinch – talks me through it.

C) A lot of believers – SPEAK THE TRUTH – NO LOVE

1) Just stings – doesn't heal - wash it off immediately

How can WE be used to bring healing?

A) Forgive someone who has hurt you. –

B) Show Kindness where kindness is not warranted

C) Kingdom minded people realize – we exist to be influencers

1) Webster's: Influencer – the power to change or affect someone or something –

D) The power to cause changes without directly forcing them to happen.

**Preservative:** they understood this: many of the disciples were fishermen.

A) Fish at night – Fish would be sold in the morning – shores of Galilee

B) But some of it was taken up to Jerusalem: FISH GATE - Cut it open – gut it – and Rub salt all over it. – Keep it from spoiling

C) They didn't have refrigeration – couldn't pack them in ice – Salt

1) WHEN they Killed game – Meat – No Refrigeration –

D) So they would rub salt into the meat – Kill the bacteria – keep it fresh for a longer period of time

E) Our world is filled with bacteria – Rotting like spoiled fish

1) We as believers are to have a preserving effect upon our areas of influence

**Salt purifies and cleanses:**

A) In that culture: Baby was born – they were wiped down with water and then salted –

B) **Picture the OBGYN – Salt shaker**

1) Salt killed the bacteria on the skin and kept disease from impacting the babies.

**Salt enhanced the flavor of things - The Greeks called salt "charitas" (grace) because it gave flavor to things.**

A) SALT ALSO SEASONS WHATEVER IT TOUCHES!

B) Now in every one of these uses there is a common factor – in order for the salt to have the desired affect – healing – preserving – purifying or even flavor enhancing – it has to be applied.

C) Salt in the salt shaker – is of no use – Nice shaker man

D) The purpose of the salt is to permeate the desired target.

1) The same thing is true of us – God wants us to permeate our world

So how can we PRACTICALLY have that flavor enhancing – preserving and purifying effect on those around us? PERMEATE

A) We have to be willing to RUB shoulders with hurting people.

B) To build relationships – with non-believers

C) Break out of our comfort zones – Eyes off of ourselves.

1) Put ourselves in the place of being a vessel.

**“Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be**

with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”

~ Colossians 4:6

D)We can add the incredible flavor of Grace to this world – through our speech – through our actions

E)We can have that effect in the way we use Social media like – Facebook

The way we treat others:

A)Waitress at the Restaurant or the person in the check out line at Costco or the Grocery store!

B)Ask them how they are doing – Lousy – I am going to pray for you

C)Ask can I pray for you.

D)Start being people who are others-FOCUSED rather than self-FOCUSED like the rest of the world.

E)SEE IT AS A PRIVILEGE.

Think of it this way:

A)Let’s say I am a Billionaire – I said – I want to hire you – pay you 100k  
Your job – every year 500K – find people to bless!

B)Everyday – put a smile on peoples faces – everyday – look to help people in need.

1)How many of you would like that Job?

C)God has given us something infinitely greater than \$500K – The Gospel transforms lives – hearts

1)Given us – His spirit in our hearts

D)Lord show me how to be salt today – Healing/ Flavor/ Preserve/ Purify

1)Imagine what would happen if we all started praying like that everyday

E)See many more opportunities

Note: Salt makes you thirsty: - Movies – Popcorn - buttered – sell \$5

Soda for \$25 – drinking fountain – drippler – gum – manager

A)Our lives are meant to make others thirsty for Jesus!

B)What would people say about you – if you suddenly transferred Jobs – no longer at your company? So glad he is gone!

1)Hard worker – his production will be missed / Nice guy –gal  
team player – Christian ? Do they know?

C)Or if you died – Your funeral – Your wife say – Kids say

1)People you work with - Your neighborhood

D)Small group – would you be missed?

E)Part of the reason we are here – create a thirst

I read a story of a missionary couple that served faithfully for fifteen years among a particular people group in Kenya - **without seeing any outward results.**

**They labored practically in the culture, doing all they could to set Christ before these people and shared the gospel at every chance they got.**

**But no one responded until a couple of days after their departure.**

The ladies who cleaned their house and the gardener who took care of the grounds as well as the milkman who delivered their milk all converged upon the empty house one day at the same time, related how much they now missed these Christians.

They **All wept about this sense of loss**, and reflected upon what they saw in them and what they had taught them.

Each one of them ended up giving their lives to Christ!

The church among that people group was born without a missionary but not without **the salt and light influence of that Christian family** that lived among these people for fifteen years, faithfully living unto the Lord.

**What they did not accomplish with their preaching they accomplished by being Christians in a decaying world.**

My POINT

If we are living our lives rightly, engaging our world, permeating the lives of those around us. –

## **Our lives should make them thirsty!**

B) **Jesus was that Way!** – He was called **the friend of sinners** – they enjoyed being around him – He added Flavor to His world.

1) Look up friend of sinners –

C) Interesting description: Say that about you- Me?

1) Out of our way – Friend of sinners

What if Salt loses its flavor? **“Good for nothing but to throw out and trampled under foot by men.”**

A) All of you scientist and Chemist in the room are thinking – Salt – Sodium Chloride is a stable element – It can't lose its saltiness

B) Put your mind at ease: Those listening to Jesus knew exactly what he was talking about –

C) In Israel a lot of the salt was mined directly from Salt veins – It was very pure – couldn't lose its flavor.

## **But other salt was taken from the Dead Sea!**

A) That salt could be used for some things – but it had Bitumen and other chemicals mixed in.

B) If that salt was left outside in the rain – and the rain washed over it – the Salt was washed out of it. – Bitter

1) You didn't want to put that on your steak or rub it on a baby or into a wound at all.

C) **BUT THEY ALSO DIDN'T WANT IT TO GO TO WASTE.**

D) They used it to cover the walkways in the cold winter months

A) **WE CAN LOSE OUR SALTINESS – THE WORLD WASHES OVER US**

1) Luke Warm – Carnal

B) When we act more like the world – than like Christ!

Jesus is not saying that if that happens (WHEN you lose your saltiness) you lose your salvation – **He's saying you lose your impact**

A) Lose your ability to preserve, to enhance flavor, create thirst

B) **Luis Sanchez- Most antagonistic** - You made me want to cry – Such a bummer –

1) Blow our witness – lose our saltiness

## **C) It can be hard to get it back –**

D) Truth be told - **More people will read our lives than will ever read a Bible!**

1) Scare you or Excite you? – FISHBOWL

You are salt and YOU ARE Light – **LIGHT OF THE WORLD – A city on a hill**

A) CITY on a Hill is – elevated - Obvious– it influences from a distance

B) Analogy they were familiar with ships coming in from the storm

C) JESUS was saying our lives can have a guiding influence to those who are in the storm.

1) Shine before them –

D) Can't hide an obvious Christian! – Person reflecting Jesus

1) Go on record: Show them – this is what a Christian looks like

V.15 He changes the analogy a bit – House 15 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.

A) Houses – small windows – keep the light and heat out in the summer months and keep the heat inside in the winter months

B) So they relied heavily on oil lamps –

1) No one lights a lamp and then covers it – stupid –

C) Light is meant to illuminate

1) Illuminates - Saw Water Buffalo in Africa

D) Clarity: Walk right – Light gets turned on – see clearly – not stumbling around

1) Night and our dog

## **JESUS IS THE LIGHT - John 8:12**

**“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” ~**

A) Now I am in you! - LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!

**B)DON'T HIDE IT - LET IT OUT – REFLECT  
ME**

**C) Let your light so shine – See good works –  
glorify your father who is in Heaven**

**D)Glorify your father in Heaven! - We exist for his  
Glory**

**Why are you so nice?**

**A)Why do you care so much?**

**B)Why are you so different? – JESUS IN ME**

**C)FUN WAY TO LIVE!**

**Cure for Depression: 10 steps –**

**A)#1 Do something nice for someone else –**

**Repeat Step #1 nine times**