

***Salt & Light - Matthew 5:13-16***  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.” If you grew up in church, at some point in time you probably sang this little song based on our passage today. As Jesus is teaching His disciples, He uses two metaphors to describe their relationship with the larger culture, that they are salt and they are light. This text comes in a section we call “The Sermon on the Mount” from Matthew 5-8, and to understand these metaphors we need a little bit of the context. First, this sermon begins by telling us that Jesus, “Seeing the crowds,” went up on a mountain to teach His disciples. This is important, because the entire teaching section is directed at those who follow Jesus, but it is all with the crowds in view. In other words, the point Jesus is making is that the transformed lives of His disciples coming as a result of the Gospel taking deep root has an external purpose. The Holy Spirit works in us to make us more like Jesus, but this is because Christ has the larger culture in view. Second, we call the first part of this sermon the Beatitudes, which is a sort of climbing ladder of the transformed character brought about by the Gospel. Blessed are the poor in spirit, mourners, meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and even the persecuted, Jesus says. Yet again, God’s purpose is to do this work in us in order for us to be salt and light for the crowds.

You (and this means you together, or y’all) are salt. My doctor reminds me when I go see him that too much salt is a bad thing when poured on my eggs and mashed potatoes. But in the ancient world salt had some very important uses that actually preserved life. Since there was no refrigerators or freezers, salt was used as a preservative for meat. They would cover the meat with salt to stop any decay. And yes, the salt added flavor and spice to the things they ate. Salt was also used to treat wounds (that does not sound fun), a healing agent that would keep a deep cut from getting infected. Notice that Jesus tells us that we are salt, not that we should strive to be salt. The purpose of our discipleship is so that we will be the type of people who live in a decaying world and be agents of change and transformation. Our lives and love for our neighbor will bring healing and give people the flavor of Christ.

You are the light of the world. This metaphor is fairly simple, light shines, illuminates, yet also exposes. Light pushes back darkness and allows people to see their way so they keep from stubbing toes or hitting their head. As people who know Jesus, we are already light. The glorious work of the Gospel in us makes us a reflection of the True Light of the world, and as His light shines in us it is also reflected from us to the larger culture. The witness of our lives and lips becomes the vehicle God uses to make His glory known to those living in our city. As that light shines in each of us in His church we become a city on a hill that cannot be hidden. In ancient times a city’s lights at night was a blessing and a danger. It was a blessing for a sojourner lost and struggling to know where to go to find safety. But those lights also exposed the city to danger. Often those in the city would extinguish the lights at night in fear of marauders who had ill will toward others. Jesus tells us, let your light shine, put it on display for all to see as we do the good works produced by the Gospel.

If we are salt we will add flavor, but we will also burn and repulse. If we are light we will draw but also find those opposed to the light. The danger, for the church and individual believer comes not when there is opposition and trouble because of our faith, but when there is indifference and irrelevance. We become tasteless, useless for any good thing when there is no more saltiness. In ancient times people would find a block

of minerals and use taste to see if the mineral had salt in it. If it did, they would keep chipping away. But if it was tasteless they would throw the block in the street where people would walk on it. It was useless. I fear the church in our culture often finds itself in this place. The Gospel will always be a beautiful draw to some, meanwhile offensive to others. Yet the righteous lives and passion of the believing church will make us salty like Jesus. And the good works and proclamation of Christ will cause our lights to shine and people will give glory.

This is the final sermon in our series on our vision right now. And it fits in this way. If we cry out for revival, if PRAYER IS THE MISSION, if we long to see God act, then we have to know that the outcome will be this, that Christ will make us salty. The Holy Spirit will cause the reflection of the glory of Christ to shine brightly. Oh Lord, may You do this in our church and among all believers in our city!

**Bible Reading for the Week**

**Daily Bible Readings**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Chronicles 6	1 Chron 7	1 Chron 8	1 Chron 9	1 Chron 10	1 Chron 11	1 Chron 12

Reading from this past week: Matthew 5:13-16

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

**Family Worship**

Song - *Jesus is Better*

<https://youtu.be/vTewClvR7Og>

Gospel Project

Story: Jesus' Hard Teachings

Story Point: Many people misunderstood

Jesus' teaching.

Big Picture Question: How does God care for His creation?

Answer: God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.

Scripture: John 6

New City Catechism

Question #39: With what attitude should we pray?

Answer: With love, perseverance, and gratefulness.

Verse: Philippians 4:6

Scripture

Matthew 5:13-16

\*What are the uses for salt? What does this metaphor teach us about how we relate to non-Christians in our city and world?

\*Who is the True Light of the World? How does Jesus being the Light of the World relate to His words here that says we are the light of the world?

\*How can we let our lights shine before people? What are some good works we could do as a family to make the light of Jesus known?

Prayer

\*Pray that we as a church would be salt and light for our city and world.

\*Pray for our service at Blevins Elementary on Wednesday, and for the teachers, administration, and staff at the school.