

Fulfilled: Salt and Light

Matthew 5:13–16

Opening Discussion:

1. What role do we play as Christians in the larger society? What kind of influence should we have, and what kind of influence do we have?
2. How would our role in society be different in a nation where Christians face intense persecution?
3. Would you describe the world as a place that needs preservation from decay? Would you describe the world as a place of darkness that needs light? If yes, why?
4. How can we best address the issues of brokenness we see around us without pushing people away from the gospel?

Followers of Jesus are called to bring life where there is death and light where there is darkness.

Exploring the Passage

1. You are

- a. Not, “You should be the light of the world” or even “Be the light of the world”
- b. Believers are in a position of influence whether we realize it or not
- c. We are either functioning as the salt of the earth or the light of the world OR we are going against the very nature of what it means to be a follower of Jesus
 - i. Either, we won’t be able to sustain our non-influential state very long
 - ii. OR, we aren’t truly followers of Jesus
- d. Who was Jesus referring to?
- e. Warning: this is not automatic

2. The Salt of the Earth

- a. Salt’s value
- b. Salt’s preservative function
- c. Salt’s saltiness
- d. What does it mean to be the salt of the earth?
 - God’s people play a preservative role
 - A little goes a long way; so it is with out corrective and preservative function and so it is with our power—we are small but impactful.
 - Salt only functions when it is mixed in or applied to whatever it is seasoning/preserving; we cannot serve as preservatives of society if we withdraw from society.
 - God’s people play a seasoning role in attracting others to the gospel with our way of life.

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Colossians 4:5–6

- Salt without saltiness is not helpful or accepted—it is thrown away; If we compromise those qualities which give us our preservative qualities in order to be accepted, we lose our value to society and ironically are discarded.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **John 15:5**

3. The Light of the World

- a. Are we the light of the world, or is Jesus the light of the world?
- b. Illustration one: a city on a hill
- c. Illustration two: a light on a stand
- d. Matthew 6:1 warns us against practicing our righteousness before other people to be seen by them. This is not a warning against doing good deeds in front of others. Rather, it is a warning about stealing the glory of God. Our intent in our good works must be to point to our Savior and our Father.

Fill in the Blank Answers

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3. The light of the world

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Illustration one: a city on a hill

Illustration two: a light on a stand