
You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (Matthew 5:13)

I. You Are Kingdom Salt

- a. Remember who Jesus was talking to? Specifically, to His disciples. Jesus blesses us with His own high view of us. "*You are the salt of the earth...*"
- b. Jesus says, "*You folks are,*" not "*you folks ought to be*" or "*should be*" or "*could be*".
- c. In 4:19, Jesus promised to make the disciples *fishers of men*. He gives them another identity wrapped in purpose (*you are salt*). They will be used by God to help people not just in Galilee but in *all the earth*.
- d. Authentic Christians are *salt of the earth*. Remember in Jesus' teachings He tells us *what we are* before He tells us *what to do*. Blessing before commands.
- e. The Christian ethic is an ethic of *become what you are* rather than *become what you should be*.
- f. Salt does not exist for itself. Christians should not exist for themselves.
- g. Salt's main mission is penetrating food; Christians' main mission is penetrating the earth.
- h. Disciples who bring Jesus to the world are the ones who preserve, purify, flavor and convict humanity (family/friends).
- i. Salt a centimeter away from food is useless; Christians not connecting to people are not fulfilling their purpose.
- j. *But if salt has lost its taste* (tang) it is has no value. The warning is meant to shake Christians up.
 1. Saltiness is a gift of Jesus' presence. We **retain** our saltiness when we pray, read and serve.
 2. The world around us tries to dilute, water us down and distract us into being flavorless salt.

II. You Are Kingdom Lights

- a. *You are the light of the world*. Another declaration of Jesus not what *will be*, but what *already is*.
- b. Jesus declares this to the Christian community (disciples) and to the individual believer (disciple).
- c. Jesus was called the Light of the Nations (4:16), now that light is passes to His disciples.
 1. As the moon reflects the light of the sun, disciples are to reflect Jesus into the world.
 2. A light can be an attraction, a warning and a guide.
- d. We are not be hidden. The One who lights us up will also put us on a hill and a table.
- e. Are light is meant to contrast the disciples good works with surrounding world's.
- f. Christian "good works" are done in modesty, with mercy and without a hidden agenda. We give of ourselves not to get, but because the Lord has already given us so much.
- g. *Good works (kala erga)* is the only time this phrase is used in the Synoptic Gospels.
- h. Christian works should always be motivated by our love for God and people.
- i. **The goal** in our *good works* is for people to be impressed by God and not by us.

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. Christ has declared and given us an identity and purpose (*you are salt and light*) that cannot be removed by man.
- b. According to Jesus, saltiness and light are empowered by His presence.
- c. Our personal flavor (tang) means nothing, but Christ's flavor means everything.
- d. We have no light nor can we produce light on our own, we reflect only what preexists.
- e. We are blessings of usefulness. We are more valued in heaven than on earth, but nonetheless the world needs us.
- f. Stay salty may friends and let your lights so shine.