



## SERMON ON THE MOUNT

### SERMON ON THE MOUNT WEEK 2: MATTHEW 5:13-20

#### Community Group Study Guide - Week of January 31, 2021

Jesus Christ starts His earthly ministry with a call to repentance. In the Sermon on the Mount, after explaining how to enter the Kingdom of God (through repentance) and how to grow in the blessedness of being a citizen of the Kingdom (through the beatitudes), Jesus turns His attention to grounding Christians in their new identity. When we repent of our sins and enter the Kingdom of God, our identity changes. We become children of God, servants of the King, ambassadors of reconciliation, and change agents for good. This last part is what Jesus focuses on in our text for tomorrow, [Matthew 5:13-20](#).

Jesus gives us two major identity statements, about who we are. He says: "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world." Not: you will be salt and light if you're good. But: you are, since you're in the Kingdom. Jesus says: this is who you are, now, *be who you are*. "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." This is our job description.

Why salt & light? Salt was used for flavoring, like it is today. It was also used as a preservative, to keep food (specifically meat), from rotting. Light is illuminating. Light shines in the darkness. Light provides growth.

Both are indispensable. Both are also change agents. Light changes darkness. Salt changes meat and prevents corruption. This is what we are called to do with our good works, and by good works, Jesus means our lifestyle. We are to change the world around us by being who we are. Join us tomorrow as we meditate on this rich passage.

#### DISCUSSION GOALS

##### Head

To meditate on what it means that Christ gives us an identity as salt and light.

##### Heart

To derive encouragement and boldness to live out our identity in Christ by reflecting on what it means to be salt and light.

##### Hands

To seek to honor the Lord and spread His kingdom by being salt and light wherever He places us, by standing on His word, living out His law, and calling people to worship Him.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### In-Person Worship Services

THIS Sunday, February 7 at 9:30AM and 11:30AM.

Please go to <https://brookline.mosaicboston.com/serve> to sign up to serve on the Mini Mo or Usher Team.

We will hold a **baptism this Sunday**, February 7, after the 11:30AM service.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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## Read Matthew 5:13-20

1. What does Jesus mean when He says that His followers are "salt"? What does Jesus mean when He says that His followers are "light"? How does someone attain the status as "salt" and "light"? What does Jesus hope to accomplish by reminding His true followers to be who they are?
2. How do institutions of the world try to accomplish change? How is Jesus' method for transforming the world different?
3. Shall the improvement of the condition of mankind be a Christian's primary goal in life? To whom does a Christian desire to reflect attention while performing good works in this life?
4. How can you do a better job at being "salt" and "light" in your home, church, work place, and/or social circles? What patterns or habits do you want to incorporate into your lifestyle in order to be "salt" and "light" in your spheres of life? How can you create margin in your life to increase your impact on people within your spheres?
5. Does being "salt" and "light" mean that Christians should just go around preaching the gospel to everyone with whom they interact? From your experience, what kind of situations or relationships allow for good opportunities to share the gospel?
6. Can a Christian talk about being salt and light without mentioning God's law? Explain.
7. What does it mean that Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets? How does Jesus fulfill the civil, ceremonial and moral laws of the Old Testament? What responsibility do New Testament believers have with regards to God's Law since Jesus now that Jesus fulfilled it?
8. How does a person's view of God's law change when he or she is born again in Christ? Why does a Christian delight in God's law? How is our view of God's law a reflection of our view of God Himself?
9. **Read verse 18.** What does Jesus' use of the words "for truly" indicate about his understanding of his own identity? What response was Jesus trying to prevent in His followers by His statements in verses 17-20?
10. What does **verse 19** tell us is the best way for Christians to be salt and light? What is the difference between the obedience of God's law that Christ wants from his followers and the obedience of the Pharisees? What was the mistake of the Pharisees? How can one diagnose if their obedience to God is coming from the right heart posture?
11. What benefits have you derived from applying God's law to your life? How has your view of God been impacted by trying to faithfully apply His law in your life? How has it impacted your position or status within communities of people?