

With those two differences in the ancient understanding of salt, what are some of the things Jesus might be implying about His followers when He employed the image of “the salt of the earth” to describe them (us)?

1. Have you ever seen v. 13 illustrated in a real-life situation?

- Have you seen a time when you or another Christ-follower influenced the dynamics of a group when the Christ-follower sensed that the conversation had turned to character assassination and he or she was able to steer the conversation in a more fruitful direction? How did that Christ-follower change the atmosphere from toxic to helpful?
- On the other hand, have you seen (or been involved in) a situation in which the Christ-follower failed to play a role in influencing the dynamic (the salt had “lost its savor”)?

2. **The motivation for letting our “light shine before men” is so that God will be honored (v. 16).** But doing good works can also bring honor to the one who does good (as we’ll see in the next chapter, and as we see in the performative virtue of social media). How can believers guard against turning their witness into mere performance (virtue-signaling)?

3. What happens to the witness of the church when Christ-followers are not functioning as salt and light in their community? Have you seen a group of Christians fall into cultural irrelevance because they lost their moral and spiritual distinctiveness and became like everyone else?

[illegible]