

All In with Jordan Easley

Becoming Bright and Salty Disciples

Kingdom Culture | Part 1 | Matthew 5:13-16

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

Many of us know what it's like to cheer for a losing team. As a Dallas Cowboys fan, I'm no longer convinced that winning is even an option! When you live in a losing culture, winning doesn't even seem possible. In the NFL, "Black Monday" happens every year — when owners fire coaches and leaders in an effort to change the culture. Why? Because leaders determine culture. Jesus never coached football, but in Matthew 5 He stood on a hill and declared a new kind of culture — a Kingdom Culture. He told His followers: If you believe in Me, you can't remain the same. You must evacuate the culture of this world and embrace a new way of life. In this passage, He calls us "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world." These words show us our identity in Him and the way we are to live because of Him.

KEY POINTS

1. Salt Must Be Distributed (Matthew 5:13)

Jesus calls believers the salt of the earth. Salt was extremely valuable in the first century — used as a preservative, a flavor enhancer, and even in building construction. But salt is only valuable when it fulfills its purpose. If salt stays in the shaker, it makes no impact.

In the same way, if we stay inside our Christian circles and never engage a lost world, we fail to fulfill our purpose. The devil's strategy is to "de-salt" your life by saturating you in worldly culture. When we conform to the world instead of being transformed by Kingdom culture, we lose our testimony — the very thing that makes us salty. Jesus warns that salt that loses its taste is "no longer good for anything" and will be trampled underfoot. Our calling is to preserve God's holiness and spread His truth daily.

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2. Light Must Be Displayed (Matthew 5:14–15)

Salt relates to our character; light relates to our conduct. Salt is what we are; light is what we do. The world is in darkness, and Jesus commands His followers to shine. He is the Sun — the source of light. We are the moon — reflecting His light to the world.

Hiding our light by blending in with the world is spiritual adultery. James 4:4 says that friendship with the world is hostility toward God. We cannot serve two masters. We must choose to live in an exclusive relationship with God and shine brightly for Him, rather than camouflaging our faith to fit in.

3. Believers Must Be Deployed (Matthew 5:16)

We know we are living as salt and light when others see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven. The two greatest days in a believer's life are the day we are born again and the day we realize why we were born again.

A bright and salty disciple has abandoned worldly culture for Kingdom culture. We've been forgiven, set apart, and called to live in such a way that makes "going to hell" nearly impossible for those around us. We are valuable to God — chosen, redeemed, and commissioned to change the eternal landscape for others. God didn't call us to live comfortably in this dark world but to soar as disciples who make a difference for His Kingdom.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What are some practical ways you can “get out of the shaker” and live as salt in your workplace, school, or community this week?
2. In what areas of your life might you be tempted to hide your light to fit in with the world? How can you change that?
3. How can you live in such a way that others see your good works and are drawn to glorify God?
