

Matthew 5:13-16

“The King’s Subjects are Salt and Light”

Prelude [2016 Vision]- **Jesus is Our King and Marriage**

1. When Jesus is King in the marriage realm, husbands love their wives as Christ loves the church; and wives respect their husbands and encourage them to be spiritual leaders [Eph. 5:21-33]

a. Share your questions and experiences: JesusIsOurKing@calvarynexus.org

i You may not be married, or have any desire for marriage, but we recognize marriage and family as an integral unit for Christ’s kingdom on this earth.

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Discussion Qs

- 1. What are some impurities, or ways believers can be diluted, that make believers lose saltiness?**
- 2. How do believers hide the light of Christ?**
- 3. How can good works reveal the light and glory of God?**
- 4. How can sharing your faith reveal the light and glory of God?**

Intro. Jesus’ followers are to influence the world for Christ and advance His Kingdom. Every life influences others – positively or negatively. The world system or prevailing culture is corrupt, immoral, and dark. The problem is that the church is more influenced by the world than vice-versa. But today that trend can change right here and now: in marriages, families, workplaces, schools, and communities. Would you like to know how?

Subject: Jesus’ followers influence like salt and light

Object: Make Jesus king and influence your world for Him

Context: beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes [1-12] describe the blessings of the kingdom. The similitudes [13-16] describe what we are as the king’s subjects. An exhortation to act like what we are and Who’s we are, to resemble Christ.

I. Jesus' followers are like salt [13] You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

A. The value of salt in Jesus' day:

1. Roman soldier was paid part of his salary in salt [worth his salt]
2. For the Jew: salt was used to bind a covenant between God and man [Num. 18:19]; used in offerings to God [Lev. 2:13]
3. Cf. in our culture minimal value, low-sodium diets, but salt is needed for life

B. The influence of salt: 4 traits

1. Preserve [prevent decay]: e.g. fish from Galilee to Jerusalem no ice, refrigeration

a. Be a preserving agent in a rotten world [*

2. Purify: salt was used to disinfect open wounds

a. Dead Sea has 9x salt content of oceans, and people come for healing re skin cond.

b. salt in an open wound can sting. So speak the truth in love when seeking to purify

3. Flavor: *French fries with vs. without salt

Col. 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt

a. Our life should be flavorful! Don't take yourself too seriously. Cf. Take the Lord, the Word, your mission with reverence and joy.

i. Oliver Wendall Holmes (Supreme Ct. Justice) said he might have entered the ministry if the ministers he knew didn't act like undertakers.

4. Thirst: seek to create a thirst that only the living water of Jesus [Jn. 4] can satisfy. Cf.

You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink – Cf. salt block

C. The problem of salt losing its flavor but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. Historically salt had impurities that caused it to lose flavor. Cf. our salt is pure so we have little to no experience with salt not being salty.

1. Avoid impurities:

2. Avoid being diluted: seeking contentment in this world.

a. Lot's wife Gen. 19:26

* 1 Tsp. salt in 8 oz water vs 16, 32, 64, 128

? What are some impurities, or ways believers can be diluted, that can make believers lose saltiness?

D. How to keep being salty:

1. A fresh (new) work of God [2Ki. 2:19-22] Elijah as the new prophet in Israel and the healing of the waters at Jericho by pouring salt in the well. Generally salt makes water undrinkable, but here it signals that God is doing a new work.

2. Share what you receive: (gospel, the faith) Cf. the Salt Sea is dead since no outlet

** Easter [Resurrection Sunday] invites, people are remarkably receptive at Easter

II. Jesus' followers are like light [14-16] You are the light of the world. **A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.**¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

A. What does it mean to be the light of the world? [14] “world” refers to world system opposed to God, characterized by *moral darkness*. **You [13.14]** is emphatic [ie. you and only you] Church {God’s people} is the light re truth about God & morality.

1. We are to reflect Christ’s light: He is the true light [Jn. 8:12] *sun & moon

a. The closer we are to Christ the brighter we shine

B. The light must not be hidden but must shine bright in the darkness [14-5]

1. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden [14]: it must be visible, coastal hilltop cities provide a means to navigate.

2. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house: olive oil lamps

a. lamp gives light to all within the sphere of influence

i. light directs, warns, illuminates, attracts, exposes

b. No secret agents for Christ [Cf. Joseph of Aramathea a secret disciple **Jn.19:38**]

Eph. 5:8 You are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light [life that reflects Christ

C. The light is to reveal good works and bring glory to God [16] Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

1. How can you let your light shine by good works and sharing your faith?

Conc. Make Jesus king and influence your world for Him