

Matthew 5:13-16

Starting at verse 13, Jesus begins to discuss the impact the blessed ones will have on society and the world. Verses 10-12 that speak about being persecuted for righteousness thrusts us into verses 13-16. The blessed ones who are righteousness will be persecuted, but we are to stand firm and be the salt and the light of the earth in a world that is corrupt and decaying and full of darkness. *Christians are salt and light; it is not optional. Christians are to have an impact and influence on the society and those around them.*

Uses/functions of salt

Used on sacrifices and as a covenant:

- **Leviticus 2:13**(Mosaic) Every grain offering of yours, moreover, you shall season with salt, so that the salt of the covenant of your God shall not be lacking from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.
- **Numbers 18:19**(Levites) All the offerings of the holy *gifts*, which the sons of Israel offer to the Lord, I have given to you and your sons and your daughters with you, as a perpetual allotment. It is an everlasting covenant of salt before the Lord to you and your descendants with you.”
- **2 Chronicles 13:5**(Davidic) o you not know that the Lord God of Israel gave the rule over Israel forever to David and his sons by a covenant of salt?
- We are kingdom of priests as we offer spiritual sacrifices to God (**Romans 12:1-2**) (**1 Peter 2:4-5**) (**Heb 13:15**)

Taste- Adds flavor to that which is tasteless.

- **Job 6:6** “Can something tasteless be eaten without salt, Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?”

Fertilizer

- **Luke 14:34-35** “Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? ³⁵ It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, [\[a\]](#)let him hear.”
- We are sent to enrich the soil, kill weeds, protect against disease, and stimulate growth, and as we scatter, life springs up in unexpected places. Barren lands become fruitful.

Stings when applied to wounds, but acts as a healing agent/antiseptic

- **Ezekiel 16:4** As for your birth, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water for cleansing; you were not rubbed with salt or even wrapped in cloths.
- We are to speak truth and be salt to those who are wounded although sometimes the truth may sting and be unpleasant, it can bring healing.
- **Colossians 4:6** Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

Preservative-Slows decay and corruption. Christians are to preserve the morality and truth in society as set forth in God’s Word and slow the spread of decay and corruption. The fewer the Christians the more wicked the world.

- **Gen 6** (the flood)- 8 people were saved, the rest were evil and were destroyed.
- **Genesis 18-19** (Sodom and Gomorrah)- less than 10 righteous people, the cities are destroyed

Creates thirst

- Christians should live lives as the salt of the earth that causes people to thirst after God.

*Salt is more useful and effective the more grains of salt there are. If one grain has the qualities to add taste, heal, preserve, and create thirst imagine how effective a multitude of grains of sand would be. The more Christians being salt, the greater the impact and influence.

*Christians and the Church should have an impact and influence on the world, but sadly too often we see the world influencing the Church.

*Christians are the only salt of the earth

*Salt is only effective when it is out of the shaker and is only effective with that which it comes in contact with.

Salt that has lost its taste

- Salt deposits near the Dead Sea contained not only salt, but other minerals that would contaminate the purity of the salt and leach the saltiness out of the content. Traders would also take sodium chloride and dilute it with sand which would in effective make the salt lose its saltiness and would be useless and thrown out. As salt of the earth, believers are not to let the contamination of the world impact and contaminate us and our duties as salt. We are to influence and impact the world, not the other way around.
- True salt never loses its taste of flavor. This speaks to the perseverance of the saints and those who have appeared to be salt and lost their saltiness speaks of apostates.

Light

- **Jesus is the Light of the World:** John 1:4-9, John 8:12, John 9:5, 1 John 1:5-7
- **The blessed one have been rescued out of darkness into Light and are now the Light of the world:** Col 1:13, John 3:19-21, Ephesians 5:8, Philipians 2:15-16, 1 Peter 2:9, 2 Corinthians 4:6
- **His Word is Light which is what we proclaim into this dark world:** Psalm 119:105, 2 Peter 1:19
- Christians are the only light in the world. Light that is covered up is useless.
- The righteous will be persecuted and as a result may be tempted to shrink into the background to cover our light to avoid any persecution and hardship. Jesus is telling the disciples and us today, the righteous will be persecuted, and we are to shine the Light of Christ into this world of darkness.

What is the end purpose of letting our light shine?

So that men can see Christ in us and glorify the Father!