

## Salt and Light: Impacting Our World

Matthew 5.13-16

Jesus is a story-teller. Throughout his ministry, he told stories to teach us how to live our lives. This morning we begin a series looking at the stories Jesus told – called parables. This morning we focus on a short ‘illustration-parable’ Jesus told in His famous Sermon on the Mount.

### Jesus’ Parables and The Kingdom

- The promised Messiah is here; Get ready for His Kingdom!
- Messiah is rejected: The Kingdom is delayed...
- Living now...in preparation for Christ’s coming Kingdom.

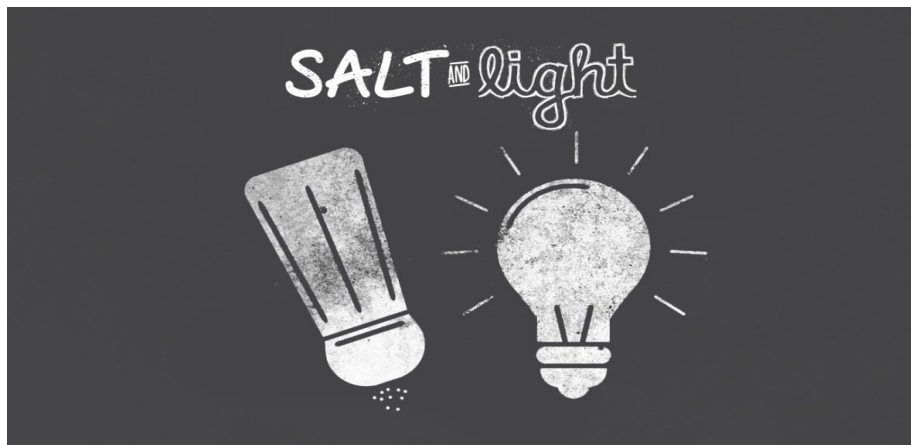
### “You are the salt of the earth” (13)

- The many uses of salt: What’s the meaning here?
- The importance of staying ‘salty’ in a bland world

### “You are the light of the world” (14-16)

- Who is the Light of the world? On reflecting Jesus...
- What happens when you let your light shine

‘Bottom Line’: *Impact your world!*



## Digging Deeper

1. It's always important to read Scripture in its historical context. In the early chapters of Matthew, what is it that John the Baptist (see Matt. 3.2) and Jesus Himself (see Matt. 4.17) told the people was "at hand" (ready to be established on earth)? In his temptation of Jesus (Matt. 4.8-9), what did the devil offer Jesus if He would fall down and worship him? In the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-8), Jesus is teaching His disciples how to live in preparation for the coming kingdom. Today, this kingdom is still future, awaiting the return of the Messiah. How should we understand and apply the teachings of Jesus' sermon today?
2. What are the different uses of salt? How can followers (disciples) of Jesus be "salt of the earth"? What does this say about the affect our lives should have on others? What does this say about how we should reflect God's unchanging truth? Our post-modern world exalts compromise and coexistence and 'tolerance'; how is this at odds with being 'salt of the earth'?
3. Jesus here calls His disciples "the light of the world." But earlier, in Matthew 4.16, Jesus Himself is "a great light;" He calls Himself "the light of the world" (John 8.12). How do followers of Jesus, the 'light of the world,' themselves become 'lights of the world'? What is Jesus' point in referring to "a city on a hill" and putting a lamp on a lampstand, not under a basket? What does 'let your light shine' point to? Who gets the glory for this?
4. Making an impact on our world can seem more and more difficult in these evil days. Perhaps this is because we are always wanting to solve *all the world's problems*, instead of impacting *our world*, where we live, for Christ. How can you be 'salt and light' in your small 'corner of the world' this week?