



Are You Salt and Light?
Examining our influence in the Kingdom of God

Matthew 5:13-16

Context ...

- In the **Sermon On The Mount**.
- Overall context is **the Kingdom**. (5:3; 6:33; 7:21)
- Jesus began by teaching the **qualities** (beatitudes) **those in His kingdom are to possess**. (note Luke 16:16)
- The last of which is the endurance of **persecution for the sake of righteousness**.

Thought Question ...

If we know persecution is coming, how might we limit our influence?

Bible Metaphors For Influence

Salt	Light
Aroma Philippians 4:18	Leaven Luke 13:21

“You are the salt of the earth ...”
Who is the “You”?

1. “The **poor in spirit**”
2. “Those who **mourn**”
3. “The **gentle**” or “**meek**”
4. “Those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness.**”
5. “The **merciful**”
6. “The **pure in heart**”
7. “The **peacemakers**”
8. “Those **persecuted for righteousness**”

“You are the salt of the earth ...”

Failing to live the beatitudes will negate any influence for good we may be able to have!

You ARE the salt of the earth ...

- Not **possessing** salt but **being** salt.
- Not **"you have salt"** but **"you are salt."**
- Not just **wearing the name** but **having the impact.**

You ARE the salt of the earth ...

Characteristics of salt ...

- **Distinctive**
- **Preserving**
- **Flavoring**

The Christian belongs to the world as its distinctive **preservative** and **savoring** agent.

To fail to serve this function **is to reject the purpose and nature of a citizen of the kingdom.**

You ARE the salt of the earth ...

The call to fulfill our purpose to be ...

"Useful" (2 Timothy 2:21; cf. Isaiah 6:6-8)

And not ...

"Useless," "No longer good for anything ..." (Matthew 25:30; 2 Peter 1:8)

How Can I Be Of Use?

Don't limit what God can do through you! (Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 3:20-21; Hebrews 13:20-21; 1 Samuel 14:45)

Often, it's not a case of "I can't" but "I don't want to." (Exodus 3:10-11)

Can/will it be said of us, **"he has worked with God this day"?** (1 Samuel 14:45)

What happens when we stop persevering?

The world goes from bad to worse.

(Genesis 6:1-5; 18:22-33; 2 Timothy 3:13)

Hearts grow "lukewarm" and cold.

(Revelation 3:16-17; Matthew 24:12)

You Are The Light Of The World

Same "you."

Again, **"are the light"**, not just **"have the light."**

Why can't we be hidden (kept secret)?

What if we are hidden? (verse 14; John 19:38; Matthew 25:25)

Stay humble ... it's only through our fellowship with Jesus Christ. (John 1:4-9; 8:12; 9:5; 12:46; Psalms 27:1)

You Are The Light Of The World

How do we become the light?

- Depends on our **relationship with the word of God**. (Psalms 119:105, 130; Proverbs 6:23)
- **Is the word of God the influence in our lives it ought to be?** (1 Timothy 4:16; Colossians 1:9)
- We must **shine God's word in the darkness**. (Ephesians 5:8-17)
- **We will seem "peculiar"** (1 Peter 2:9, κJV; 4:3-4; cf. Acts 26:24)
- **Who is adequate for these things?** (2 Corinthians 3:4-6)

Walking As Children Of Light

Luminaries through our ... (Philippians 2:15; note verses 12-16)

1. **Consistent obedience**. Verse 12
2. **Diligent effort**. Verse 12
3. **Reverence and respect**. Verse 12
4. **Useful to the Master**. Verse 13
5. **Without complaining & disputing**. Verse 14
6. **Above reproach**. Verse 15
7. **Never quitting**. Verse 16

What's Our Objective?

"... In such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

We're being **"observed"** (1 Peter 2:11-12).

Convict of sin and plead and persuade to be reconciled to God.
(2 Corinthians 5:10-20)

Don't Turn To The Right Or Left

Turn to one way and we're doing what's right **to be seen of men** and **bring glory to self**. (Matthew 6:1-6)

Turn the other way and we hide our light so as to not be seen.

Light Through Obedience To The Gospel

It's up to us to preach God's plan of salvation and turn them to the light of the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10; Acts 26:18)

It's up each of us to obey the call of the gospel through our faith, confession, and baptism into Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:38)

What if we've failed as Christians to be the salt and light God calls us to be?

- **Be thankful God has granted us time to repent and change.**