

Salt And Light

Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 14:34,35; John 8:12

Faith Portal Church

ADULT

Unit 4 Lesson 2

Supplemental Texts

Mark 9:50; John 1:4; 3:19; 9:5; 12:46

Focus Verse

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” – Matthew 5:16

Introduction

In the Sermon on the mount, Jesus Christ taught His audience how to live a life that produces happiness through the Beatitudes. His teachings, though over 2,000 years ago, are still relevant in our generation. He told His followers that they are the “Salt of the earth” and the “Light of the World.” Reflecting on the significance of “Salt” and “Light” in our everyday living, we can see how invaluable we are in the world that is unseasoned, corrupt, and dark as followers of Christ.

Deeper Look

Ye Are The Salt Of The Earth – Matt 5:13; Luke 14:34,35

It is important to ask ourselves why our Lord would call His followers the “Salt of the earth.” To His audience, salt has two main usefulness: it is used to preserve food, particularly meat, and season food. So, the role and effect of salt cannot be underestimated.

Just as the salt preserves food, so also Christians preserve the world from moral decadence and pollution emanating from ungodly people (Psa 14:3; Rom 8:8). Salt adds flavor to food and makes it palatable. So, Christians, with their godly living, add “flavor” to the life of those around them. As staunch followers of Christ, we have a positive impact on the world at large.

Ye Are The Light Of The World – Matt 5:14-16; John 8:12

If Christ is Light, then Believers must be light (John 8:12). Because we are in Christ, our light shines for all to see just as the city on a hill cannot be hidden from sight. When our light shines, it speaks of Christ to the world. It is natural for us to set a lamp on a lampstand in a room for all to see than to conceal it. Our light must shine to all in this dark world and point them to Christ.

As much as we have been redeemed and transformed, we must be diligent to let our good deeds touch the lives of those around us. This is done by living in accordance with the word of God. It is for people to see, and it is for God to be glorified. Be careful how you let your light shine, as we cannot share in God’s glory. Jesus is the Light; we only shine the reflected light if we walk in His Light, and we can rejoice that we shine to please our heavenly Father.

Questions

1. How would the first century Jews describe the importance of salt? In our modern day, how is salt used? Why did Jesus call His followers the salt of the earth?
2. Salt must maintain its “saltiness” or “flavor” to remain useful and valuable. How can Christians maintain their saltiness? See John 15:1-5. How is the world affected by the saltiness of Christians?
3. What traits are evident in believers who are losing their saltiness gradually? How can you help to win them back fully?
4. Why did Jesus call His followers light, His title when He walked the earth (John 8:12; 9:5)? What was His purpose when He was on earth? How is the capacity to be light passed to us?
5. How useful is the candlelight hidden under a basket in a dark room? How useful are Christians who fail to let their light shine in the presence of the world around them? Why would they do that?
6. How does the world react when it sees light? See John 3:19-20. How do you think the world would react when the light they see is you? Explain.
7. If you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world, whom are you a blessing to? Explain.

Personal Meditation

It is a blessing to be called by our Lord and Savior the “Salt” and the “Light” in this corrupt and wicked world. Indeed, these descriptions of His followers have to be lived up to. You live up to it by the Lord’s strength, not yours. He calls us so, and He gives us the power to be so.

In view of these verses, a question should spring out of your mind, and that is: what are the things that can prevent you from realizing your role as salt and light in this evil world? Believers should be disparate from unbelievers by how they live (Psa 1; John 17:16). We must determine daily to be different from the world. Anything that you do that causes the difference to fade away or hard to decipher can prevent you from realizing your role as salt and light. Mark 9:50 and Luke 14:34-35 suggest that salt can lose its flavor, and it behooves us to do all things necessary to keep our flavor: being at peace with one another and following the teachings of Christ.

To continue to realize our role as salt and light, we must live humbly for Christ (Jas 4:6) and be led by His Spirit daily (Rom 8:1,14). By so doing, our testimony will not be hindered.

DAILY STUDY

Monday	Matt 5:13
Tuesday	Luke 14:34,35
Wednesday	Matt 5:14
Thursday	Matt 5:15
Friday	Matt 5:16
Saturday	John 8:12



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