

The Sermon on the Mount: Salty & Bright

Matthew 5:13-16

 Matthew 5:13–16 (NIV) “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

We are called to be distinctly different from the world.

 Matthew 5:13a (NIV) “You are the salt of the earth.”

 Matthew 5:14a (NIV) “You are the light of the world.”

 Ephesians 4:22–24 (NIV) “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

 1 John 1:5–6 (NIV) “This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.”

 1 Peter 4:4 (LB) “...your former friends will be very surprised when you don’t eagerly join them anymore in the wicked things they do, and they will laugh at you in contempt and scorn.”

We are called to be directly involved in the world.

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 1 Timothy 3:14–15 (NIV) “Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, ¹⁵ if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”

 Matthew 5:14–16 (NIV) “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

 Isaiah 9:2 (NIV) “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

Digging Deeper—Is there a noticeable difference in the way you live your life than the way the majority of those around you live their lives? What are some ways that, like salt, a Christian can penetrate culture? Are you making anyone around you thirsty for Christ? Are you shining your light into the darkness? What does a person who shines for Christ look like? What does a church that shines for Christ look like? What does HOTS look like?