



WHAT **JESUS** SAID ABOUT...

SALT AND LIGHT: OUR CALL TO MAKE AN IMPACT (MT.5:13-20)



WHAT **JESUS** SAID
ABOUT...

Jesus used the metaphors of salt and light to describe the impact on society of God's people who walk out the 8 Beatitudes (Mt. 5:13-16). Jesus sees the world as filled with moral decay and spiritual darkness. He describes believers as salt and light and unbelievers as the earth and world.

13 “You are the salt of the earth;
but if the salt has become
tasteless, how can it be made
salty again? It is no longer good
for anything, except to be thrown
out and trampled under foot by
men.

1. Salt: Salt is a preservative and it causes food to taste better.

God's people are to function spiritually as salt that hinders decay in a sinful society and makes people thirsty for Jesus.

Before refrigeration was invented, salt was rubbed into meat to prevent it from decaying.

14 “You are the light of the world.
A city set on a hill cannot be
hidden; 15 nor does anyone light
a lamp and put it under a basket,
but on the lampstand, and it
gives light to all who are in the
house.

16 Let your light shine before
men in such a way that they may
see your good works, and glorify
your Father who is in heaven.

2. Light: Light exposes darkness and gives direction. God's people are to reveal the truth about Jesus by our words and deeds to a world filled with darkness.

The call to be salt and light is a call to make a relevant impact on society. We can only do this as we are true to the message and refuse the temptation to distort it by removing difficult aspects. Jesus' teachings are offensive to the carnal mind and so different from the values of the world.



WHAT **JESUS** SAID ABOUT...

The idea of blending into the secular scene with music, fashion, movies, etc. to win people by becoming like them is a great mistake. Jesus taught that believers who are indistinguishable from non-Christians are useless in bringing real change to the world.

What message do we have for people who feel hopeless in the face of the political, social, and economic forces which seem to control them? Jesus is raising up revolutionaries who are dedicated to changing the world by spreading His revolutionary love, truth, and righteousness.

Losing our saltiness: We can lose our saltiness and fail to shine as a lamp by not walking out the 8 Beatitudes, not standing for truth, and not following through on the good works that God has prompted us to do.



WHAT **JESUS** SAID ABOUT...

Part of our spiritual identity is to be salt and light. Each believer has a responsibility to use their resources to stop decay and bring light to society in their generation. Our confession must be to live as salt and light.

We confess, “I will seek to go deep in my walk with Jesus; I will take a stand for truth, work hard, give much, resist sin, and serve others as salt and light.” I will do this, even in my weakness, smallness, and weariness, because I am salt and light.

II. YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



WHAT **JESUS** SAID
ABOUT...

14 “You are the light of the world.
A city set on a hill cannot be
hidden; 15 nor does anyone light
a lamp and put it under a basket,
but on the lampstand, and it
gives light to all who are in the
house.

16 Let your light shine before
men in such a way that they may
see your good works, and glorify
your Father who is in heaven.

Light a lamp: If we ask the Spirit, He will give us ideas for service and truths to speak out on. In this way, He “lights our lamp.” We must follow through on these ideas and stand for these truths.

Let your light shine before men:

We must speak up and follow through in service. We must not hide the truth deliberately out of fear, or neglect to act because of lust or laziness.



WHAT **JESUS** SAID ABOUT...

Matthew 25:25-28 (NASB)

25 And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.' 26 "But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed.

27 Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. 28 Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'

A city that cannot be hidden:

This is one of the most extraordinary statements that Jesus made about His Church. Jesus asserted that a city set on a hill could not be hidden. A city of lights is made up of many individual lights that shine together.

It is glorious when many work together,
each making a small impact, but
collectively making an impact that
cannot be hidden. The city is
seen when many individuals are
faithful to speak up and follow through
in service.



WHAT **JESUS** SAID
ABOUT...

Glorify your Father: We are to speak and act with humility, tenderness, and faithfulness to truth. Jesus talked about the spirit in which we serve and make the truth known. We are to live, speak, and act in a way that draws attention to God and others, without drawing attention to or promoting ourselves.

III. THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FULL PURPOSE



WHAT **JESUS** SAID
ABOUT...

17 “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

After seeing that Jesus is committed to changing the world, our next question may be related to how serious He is. To what degree will He change it? How far will He go in using His people?



WHAT **JESUS** SAID ABOUT...

Jesus did not destroy or minimize any of God's purposes, promises, or moral commandments from the OT Law and Prophets (Mt. 5:17-18). He came so that the fullness of all that God had promised and commanded would be expressed in the lives of His people.

One day the earth will be filled with God's glory, when the nations walk in righteousness. Jesus will transform the earth and fill it with God's glory. Read Isaiah and the prophets to see how far Jesus will take this.

IV. THE INVITATION TO BE GREAT



WHAT **JESUS** SAID ABOUT...

19 Whoever then annuls one of
the least of these
commandments, and teaches
others to do the same, shall be
called least in the kingdom of
heaven; but whoever keeps and
teaches them, he shall be called
great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 “For I say to you that unless
your righteousness surpasses
that of the scribes and Pharisees,
you will not enter the kingdom of
heaven.”

Jesus invites everyone to be great in His kingdom by walking in the Beatitudes. A disciple may ask, “Lord, what role can I have in Your plan to transform the earth? How much will you use me in this age? How much in the age to come?”

Our function in the age to come is linked to our responsiveness in this age. There will be an exchange from “few things” to “many things” (Mt. 25:21) and from “very little” to “government over ten cities” (Lk. 19:17).

21 Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord. (Mt. 25:21)

17 Because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities. (Lk. 19:17)

Our ministry assignment on earth
in this age to a ???-year
internship that prepares us for
our ministry on earth in the
Millennium. Our primary ministry
assignment on earth will be in the
Millennium and it will last for
1,000 years (Rev. 20:4-6).

In the age to come, we will each receive a different measure of glory in our resurrected body, etc.

We will all be loved equally by Jesus, but we will have varying function and authority—some of the saints will be called the least and some will be called the greatest.

1 Corinthians 15:41-42 (NASB)

41 There is one glory of the sun,
and another glory of the moon, and
another glory of the stars; for star
differs from star in glory.

42 So also is the resurrection of the
dead. It is sown a perishable body,
it is raised an imperishable body;