

## Matthew 5:13-16: Our Spiritual Influence

**Matthew 5:13** <sup>13</sup> “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.

**Luke 14:34-35** <sup>34</sup> “Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? <sup>35</sup> It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**Luke 14:33** <sup>33</sup> So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

Salt is one of the oldest and universal seasonings; it is critical to our health and has hundreds of uses.

Salt is good! That’s not what we typically hear. The salt in Jesus’ day was REAL salt- unrefined and loaded with minerals!

Real salt is an equalizer in the body. It regulates blood pressure, promotes nervous system function, and aids digestion.

Salt is a preservative. It delays and even prevents decay in high moisture foods, allowing them to be stored for months without refrigeration.

When real salt is added to manure, the sodium and other minerals interact with it, suppressing odors, preventing rot, and (when applied) balancing the soil, at times quadrupling crop yields.

Spiritually speaking, SALT MEANS INFLUENCE, and particularly the spiritual influence of spiritual people on an unspiritual or darkly spiritual society.

We are the salt of what? Of the Earth! This is our SPHERE OF INFLUENCE. We are here to cause a defined effect, to bring a visible and tangible enhancement, by bringing Christ into every arena of life.

We are the preservative- the only force that can slow the decay brought on by sin and the devil. This decay happens everywhere that Christian have lost our saltiness!

Jesus made it very clear that if the church surrenders to mediocrity, she has no purpose in the world and will be trampled underfoot by men. This should not be so.

Saltiness is sacrificed on the altars of sinfulness, selfishness, and silence. It can be reclaimed through repentance!

**Acts 5:11-14** <sup>11</sup> And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.<sup>12</sup> At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s portico. <sup>13</sup> But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup> And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to *their number*

When we are actively “seasoning” our environments with righteousness and real spiritual life, there is a counterbalance to evil, the whole world is improved, and spiritual fruit grows to maturity.

**Matthew 5:14-16** <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.

Much like salt, LIGHT IS INFLUENCE. It gives us the ability to change our environments from dark places to places of light. Light breaks the power of darkness by CONVERSION!

The “house” is our personal sphere of influence in the larger world. Our homes, our workplaces, our friend-groups, etc.

**Ephesians 5:13-16** <sup>13</sup> But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. <sup>14</sup> For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you." <sup>15</sup> Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

Light shines through WORDS AND WORKS. Jesus spoke the Word of life to us and then completed the Work of life for us!

**Ephesians 5:8-10** <sup>8</sup> for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth), <sup>10</sup> trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

While we are here, we have a defined role to play. Let it become your delight to bring light and season with salt every situation you find yourself in, to the glory of God the Father!