

Salt and Light

Chapter 10

Audio lesson: Sermon on the Mount 10



Objective: To learn how to be part of God's solution—to be salt and light in the world—in our relationships. Text: (Matthew 5:13-16)



“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

—Matthew 5:14-16

Salt is a preservative that keeps meat from spoiling, and Christians with the attitudes of Jesus are like salt to the world. When disciples with Christ-like attitudes are “rubbed into” the people of the world as salt is rubbed into meat, their influence will keep the world from total corruption. They become a valuable commodity Jesus uses to revolutionize the culture.

The second metaphor indicates that Christians are the only source of light for multitudes living in darkness. As with the first metaphor, Jesus' words literally mean that “you and you alone” are salt and light. If His disciples do not fulfill their role as salt and light, no one else is left to fulfill it. The people who have Jesus' attitudes are sent into the world as God's solution in order to shine for all to see.

The third and fourth metaphors are related to the second. In effect, Jesus is saying: “Before you became one of my disciples, you were like an unlighted candle. Now that you have become a Christian, your candle is lit. Every time I light a candle, I put it on a candlestick for others to see.” Like a city on a hill or bright lamp, those who are truly His disciples will not be able to hide it.

1. **True** or false? There is no way for Christians to influence the world if they isolate themselves from it and remain “in the saltshaker.”
2. **True** or false? Jesus came into the world to change culture.
3. **True** or false? Jesus told His disciples that they were light because the world is a place of darkness.
4. True or **false**? Jesus is not a good example of someone who lived as salt and light.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. When is our role as “salt” most effective?
- a. When we are studying our Bible
 - b. When we go to church
 - c. In our relationships with other people**
 - d. In our relationships with other believers
6. From the following list, underline the areas of your culture that you believe are most in need of Christian influence. (Answers may vary)
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Moral standards | Economics and business |
| Marriage | Government |
| Family relationships | Social relationships |
| Religion | Education |
| Entertainment | Culture |
7. What do you think it means to be light in the world? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. To share God’s Word**
 - b. To do good works from pure motives**
 - c. To show off your righteousness
 - d. To draw attention to yourself
 - e. To have godly attitudes**
 - f. To show love for others**
8. What is the source of our light?
- a. Our own goodness
 - b. Other believers
 - c. Our inner worth
 - d. Jesus living in us**
9. Read John 17:14. According to this verse, how are Jesus’ disciples different from the world?
- a. They are better people.
 - b. They are more talented.
 - c. They have been given His Word.**
 - d. They are not different in any way.

I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

—John 17:14

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

—John 15:16

10. Read John 15:16. According to this verse, for what purpose did Jesus choose His disciples?
- a. To take care of their own business
 - b. To associate only with other Christians
 - c. To judge the world
 - d. To go and bear fruit**

11. When the Bible says Jesus appointed His disciples to go and bear fruit, it uses a Greek word for “strategically placed.” As one of His disciples, how does it make you feel that God has strategically placed you where you are? (*choose all that apply; answers may vary*)

comforted
purposeful

frightened
confident

humbled
grateful



In what ways is your life different from the lives of those who do not know Jesus? In which of your relationships do you most need to be salt and light?



Thank God for the opportunities He has given you to be light in the darkness. Ask Him to help you shine as brightly as you can and to bear much fruit.



Going Deeper

1. Why does Pastor Woodward say we need to be “salt” before we can be “light”? _____

2. Is your life involved with the lives of others enough to act as salt and light to them? How?

3. In what ways is your life different from those who do not know Jesus? _____

4. In which of your relationships do you most need to be salt and light in the world? _____

5. Are you a “city on a hill” where you work? In what ways might a fellow worker see you as the “salt and light” of Matthew 5? _____

6. Do you know who the other believers in your workplace are? How can you tell? _____

7. Why might your workplace be a strategic place for you to be “salt and light”? _____
