

Devotional April 17, 2008

Teaching about Salt and Light – Matthew 5:13-16

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

14 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.

15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.

16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Before we get to the salt and light, I want to focus on verse 16:

**Why** are we to let our good deeds shine out? (so everyone will praise God)

Not so we get praised – so God gets praised. We are to live our lives in a way that leads to God getting praised.

Now, other observations?

Salt – We are the salt of the earth.

Preserve society from decay

Add zest (flavor) to life

Precious

We are not to lose our saltiness.

Light – We are the light of the world.

City on a hilltop – not hidden – visible. Easily visible.

Illuminates and gives light. Chases away the darkness.

We should look for ways to let our light shine.

Who else was described as light of the world? (Jesus)

Jesus was described as light – **John 9:5** – “But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Our being described also as the light of the world is thus a great **compliment** and a great **responsibility**.

Salt – preservative; light – destroys darkness.

There is **distinctiveness** to the Christian life.

We are not to become **like** the world

We are to be **in** the world. (visible).

We are to look for ways to let our light shine.

Purpose of our light – our good works?

To glorify God.

Have you had the experience of someone saying something like, “Wow. You’re going to Ethiopia. **You** have an incredible heart.” But it is really the Holy Spirit in us that is giving us light and salt.

We do not have to become light – we **are** light. We **are** the salt.

We should look for ways to let our light shine. It should be visible.

It should direct people to the Father.