

Salt And Light

Matthew 5:14 *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."*

H.G. Wells, *"Can we doubt that presently our race will more than realize our boldest imaginations, that it will achieve unity and peace, that it will live, the children of our blood and lives will live, in a world made more splendid and lovely than any palace or garden that we know, going on from strength to strength in an ever widening circle of adventure and achievement?"*

Twenty years after H.G. Wells wrote the above comment, he said, *"'Homo Sapiens,' as he is pleased to call himself, is played out. His depravity has come near to breaking my spirit."*

Our world today is trying to convince itself that humanity is the answer to all the worlds problem, but we have been the reason for the depravity of the world. We are not growing and getting better, the farther we walk from God's calling, the worse we continue to become. What the world needs is Salt and Light.

Salt is a preservative, Jesus says that there is a salt and light from outside the world that can save it. In the realm of the Kingdom of God there is not optimism or pessimism, there is trust and hope. There is salt and light from outside to stop the decay, and we can be that salt and light.

The world is subject to decay

Because of sin, the natural tendency is for everything around us to fall apart. Eventually we die and we fall apart as every molecule separates from one another; everything is the same way. If the world is all there is, everything is going to pieces, then there should be no hope. If matter is all there is, there's no hope.

There is a salt and light from outside the world that can save it.

Jesus says there is salt and light AND there is a real answer to where it comes from. The salt and light is Jesus himself. We are like a lamp, we do not have light in ourselves, a lamp only holds light. *Matt 5:15-16* *Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.* In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

When Jesus calls Himself the light of the world it means He is the truth (*John 14:6* *I am the way, the truth, and the life*) and He is the light (He guides us to reality). Jesus is the ultimate reality. We can be realistic about the state of the world **and** we can see what can happen if the life of the ideal comes into the real.

You and I can be the salt and light of the world if we associate with Jesus
When we surrender to Jesus, His light comes in, His salt (His preserving power), comes into our life and we become the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

- **Salt and light expose decay and darkness.** If you are light, that means your life should be so beautiful that when it comes into contact with other parts of the environment, the beauty of your life shows up other things for what they really are.
- **If you are salt and light, that means you bring joy.** Salt is not just a preservative, it's a seasoning. Light is beautiful because it shows up the beauty of things.
- **To be salt and light means you work for unity.** Jesus calls us a "city on a hill," that is a corporate place. Salt has to work together, one little grain of salt is not going to season anything, and that means we have to be a unit.

The church is not a club, it is a city, a new humanity, where people can see what race relations, business practices, and family life and friendships can be under the lordship of Christ.

The kingdom life (The Beatitudes) work out in the lives of the kingdom's heirs as to produce the kingdom witness (vv. 13–16). If salt (v. 13) exercises the negative function of delaying decay and warns disciples of the danger of compromise and conformity to the world, then light (vv. 14–16) speaks positively of illuminating a sin-darkened world and warns against a withdrawal from the world that does not lead others to glorify the Father in heaven.

Bonhoeffer's once said, *"Flight into the invisible is a denial of the call. A community of Jesus which seeks to hide itself has ceased to follow him"*

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