

Life Reimagined: Christ's Vision for You

Jesus Envisions Influence from His Disciples (Matt. 5:13-16)

Matthew 5:13-16, ESV

¹³ *You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.*

¹⁴ *You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.*

Salt's Many Uses

- _____
- _____
- Purifying / healing
- Fertilizing / creating _____
- As a metaphor for wisdom, morality, sacrifice
- *Best:* not specific, but general; _____

Light's Function(s)

- Illuminates, Exposes, _____, _____
- As a metaphor for truth, righteousness, integrity.
- _____
- God is light; Jesus is light; Disciples are light.

Comparison and Contrast: Salt and Light

- They are similar in _____; positive outcomes.
- They are both stable, consistent, dependable.
- They differ in effect:
 - Salt has a _____ effect; it _____ the spread of corruption, restraining _____.
 - Light has an _____ effect; it spreads the truth, pointing the way.
- Both are extremely _____.

- Disciples are the salt of the earth. No _____ are acceptable.
- Disciples are the light of the world. Nothing else can fulfill their _____.
- Jesus' followers are uniquely tasked with the accomplishment of God's program on earth.

While salt and light are essential, the reality is that they are also threatened.

Salt's Greatest Threat

- Losing saltiness? NaCl is very stable.
- Jesus is not referring to _____.
- The salt imagined here would be collected on the shores of the Salt Sea (Dead Sea).

Salt's Greatest Threat is _____.

Light's Greatest Threat

- Hiding the light. Who does that?
- Light cannot but shine. Jesus did not say _____ but _____.
- Light must shine to be effective. The basket over it inhibits the spread of _____.
- Jesus' disciples are to live in such a way that everyone around them sees God at work in and through them.

Light's Greatest Threat is _____.

Discuss & Reflect

- Which of these words best describes your influence: #shiny or #salty? Why?
- Do you intentionally influence your circles of contact? Where has God placed you to be an influence?
- How will you use your influence for Christ this week? What action will you take? With whom?