

## Sermon on the Mount

### Handout

#### Salt and Light – Mathew 5:13-16

After the Beatitudes are completed, Jesus makes a summary statement referring to those who have the attributes of one of his disciples as described in the previous verses. Those disciples are salt and light.

Mathew 5:13 – Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Salt – good for flavoring, preserving, melts coldness and heals wounds (Nelson Commentary). It hinders the spread of corruption and creates thirst (Dr. David Jeremiah) If salt loses its saltiness it is good for nothing but to spread out on a road or a walkway, and thus be tread underfoot. Pure salt never loses its saltiness, but the salt used in the east was mixed with impurities, gypsum- a chalky substance- and other minerals which made it, after exposure the air, flat and ineffective as a preservative.

Salt was a symbol of covenant and hospitality. As one of the most essential articles of food, salt symbolized hospitality (Lev.2:13, Numbers 18:19; 2 Chronicles 13:5) Of the ministry of good men, as opposing the spiritual corruption of sinners (Matt.5:13); of grace in the heart (Mark 9:50); of wisdom or good sense in speech (Col.4:6); graceless believers as salt without savor; from the belief that salt would, by exposure to the air, lose its virtue; salt pits was a figure of desolation (Zeph 2:9); “salted with fire’ (Mark 9:49) refers to the purification of the good and punishment of sinners. (Ungers Bible Dictionary)

The meaning that the salt (with its power to strengthen food and preserve it from putrefaction and corruption) imparted to the sacrifice was the unbending truthfulness of that self-surrender to the Lord embodied in the sacrifice, by which all impurity and hypocrisy were repelled.

Mathew 5:14-16 - Ye are the Light of the world, to be conspicuously seen as a city on a hill is seen; not to be hid under a bushel but put on a candlestick to give light to the whole environment. Wherever you are. Let your light shine or rather let the Lord’s light shine through you.

We want nothing to reduce our effectiveness as salt or dim or hid our light. Our lives must be pure and clean in order to keep that from happening. This is all about maintaining good Christian character so that our testimony will be effective and God will be glorified.