

# Attention Getters

## Matthew 5:13-16 NLT

### Welcome | Intro | Bibles & Apps | New Series

New Year - New Worship Service - New Message Series = A New Opportunity

- It's time to come out of the shadows as a new church and begin making a difference, A REAL difference in our community and world. We are off to a good start as a church plant but it is time to take things to a new level as individuals, as leaders, and as a church. And that is why we are starting this new series titled "City On A Hill." **Jesus & John up to this point: Change your hearts and lives....**

- Jesus - "**YOU ARE the Salt of the earth.** But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it useful again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. <sup>14</sup> **YOU ARE the light of the world**—like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. <sup>15</sup> Don't hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:13-16)

**Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) and these verses may seem to contradict.....**

But light of the countercultural perspectives laid out in the Beatitudes earlier in this chapter, it would be easy for us to assume that Jesus was calling his followers to a separatist or quasi-monastic life-style. But here in our text today Jesus proclaims exactly the opposite. Christians must permeate society as agents of redemption and change. Literally this chapter in Matthew's gospel is Jesus declaring for us that as Believers we are to BE different, ACT different, LIVE different, and MAKE a difference, all while living enveloped by the context of our world. So, let me ask you, "Do you have a dream for being and making that type of impact in our world?"

- "***What are your hopes and dreams for St. Bernard, the Greater N.O. region, and our world?***" (Networks & Movements of Community Churches that know and intentionally invest in people and the 7 pillars of society (key word: TRANSFORMATION) – I want to see happen what Jesus said his purpose was take place in our world. Listen to his words in Luke 4:18-19.

- "The Lord has put his Spirit in me, because he appointed me to tell the Good News to the poor. He has sent me to tell the captives they are free and to tell the blind that they can see again. God sent me to free those who have been treated unfairly and to announce the time when the Lord will show his kindness." - Luke 4:18-19 NCV

You do realize today that that will never come to pass until we live & serve in such a way that people take notice of our lives and see Christ in and through us.

- **Jesus teaches us that Christians are to be different from the rest of the world, Chamelons – blend in with our environment -** Not to be "Chameleon Xns"/blend in . . . - We're to be different . . . – At same time, while Christians are to be separated from the world, The Bible never teaches that Christians are to be isolated from the world – IOW, we are not just to get into our Christian communities/Christian groups and refrain from interacting with the world around us. Jesus said that we are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world around us. Which means that we are to be impacting and making a real difference in our everyday world.

### ***JESUS TAUGHT THAT WE ARE TO BE:***

#### **THE SALT OF THE EARTH**

Most people do not realize how valuable salt was in the days of Jesus. What we take for granted was like pure gold to . . . – Salt is a perseverant/2000 yrs ago people didn't have refrig. Salt was so valuable that it was often traded ounce -for-ounce with gold.

#### ***LIKE SALT, A CHRISTIAN BRINGS:***

- 1. Flavoring to our world (Romans 14:17)**
- 2. Cleansing to our world (Ezekiel 16:4)**
- 3. Healing to our world (2 Kings 2:19)**
- 4. Preservation to our world (2 Corinthians 5:20)**
- 5. Irritation to our world (2 Timothy 3:12)**
- 6. Transformation to our world**

Of the numerous things to which salt could refer to in the first century, its use as a preservative in food was probably its most basic function. And so we find Jesus here calling his disciples to be like salt and

simply carry out some of the most basic functions of life. Ideally the construct of our lives would one of that arresting corruption and preventing moral decay in the world. Literally being a people that makes our world a more righteous, more joyful, more Christ centered, hopeful, more forgiving, and a more peace filled world.

When salt is applied to something, it transforms it. Our main goal is to bring transformation to our community, parish, city, region and world. Listen to these words from the Book Acts.

- *“Philip . . . went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. Crowds listened intently to what he had to say . . . Many evil spirits were cast out . . . And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.”* (Acts 8:5-8) **THAT WAS A CITY TRANSFORMED BY THE GOSPEL!**

That can happen in our parish, city, and world if we as believers will carryout the most basic functions of what it means to be a follow of Jesus.

**We need to get out of the “salt shaker” and into the world and make difference!**— Jesus said that we are the “salt of the earth!”

### ***JESUS TAUGHT THAT WE ARE TO BE: THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD***

So, what is light? **Dictionary** says that light is:, “the natural agent that stimulates sight and makes things visible/opposes the darkness.”

- **Light is a mystery – it exists but it’s hard to explain.**

But here’s an even greater mystery – Jesus says that we are to be “the light of the world.” So, let’s talk about what it means being the “light of the world.”

#### **SO, WHAT DOES LIGHT DO?**

**Well, *We know from experience that:***

##### **1. Light exposes the darkness**

- *“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”* (Ephesians 5:11 NIV)

This world that we live in is a place of darkness. Would you agree w/ me that we live in a dark world? Think about it: The world is in

darkness **intellectually** (Ephesians 4:17-18), **morally** (John 3:19), **relationally**, and **spiritually** (John 1:5).

***We know from experience that Light exposes the darkness:***

##### **2. Light expels the darkness (Philippians 2:15)**

The Bible says that God is light. 1 John teaches that God is light & in Him is no darkness at all. But men have turned their back on the light (God), so God has deposited His light in 3 places. He has deposited His light in the Scriptures, *“Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”* – But men don’t always read the Scriptures, so God has deposited His light in His Son (*Jesus said: I am the light of the world*). But when people rejected Jesus (as they continue to do), God put His light in His followers. The people of God like you and me. We are the light of the world and we may be the only light people will ever truly see or experience. People around you may never read the Bible, and they may not care about Jesus Christ/but if they see the light of God in your life, they themselves can experience the light and the salvation of God in their lives – Our light (light of the Lord in our lives) is to expel the darkness in the world around us

- *“So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”* (Romans 14:12 NIV)

And just like lights from a city illuminating the dark countryside or a lamp inside a house providing light for all within it, Christians must let their good works shine before the rest of the world so that others may praise God.

- *<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”* (Matthew 5:16)

So this raises a question – *“How do we know if we’re being Salt and Light the way Jesus commanded us to be?* Here is test – Matthew 5:16*“Peo will see . . .”* Christians are not just saved to go to Heaven. God saves us & leave us to point people to him for salvation for their souls and transformation for their lives.

- *“For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”* (Acts 13:47 NIV)

**ALTAR TIME:**

**IMPACT MISSIONS OFFERING PRAISE:**