

Gospel of Matthew “Salt and Light”
Matthew 5:13-16
March 27, 2022

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.

Jesus is making an identity statement.

Both salt and light are central to life.

The world needs you.

Those that are most effective in this life are most aware of the one to come.

“The glory of the gospel is that when the Church is absolutely different from the world , she invariably attracts it. It is then the world is made to listen to her message, thought it may hate it at first.” - Martin Lloyd Jones,

Matthew 5:11-12 (ESV)

11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

When we rejoice when we could complain. We are especially salty.

Philippians 2:14-15 (ESV)

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

The good finish line, even through persecution, is that others will glorify God because of the salt and light of your life.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you in our gathering?

- How has your faith been shaped by better understanding your Christian identity? Do you tend to do things in order to be ok with God or do things because you are ok with God? How significant is the difference?
- How does Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:13-16 reveal your significant purpose in the world? How is this encouraging? How is it challenging?
- Salt cannot make a difference if it is distant or diluted. What are the lessons in this for you? For the Church?
- One application of this teaching is to be people who rejoice while suffering and persecuted. Why is this especially "salty?"
- If you were to be salty and radiant this week, what might that look like in word and deed? How can your Grow group help you?