

# SALT SHAKERS AND SPOTLIGHTERS!

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Imagine yourself now on a hillside on the northern end of the Sea of Galilee. As you look down the hill towards the water, the wind is blowing the grass. There is a city to the north, which we will mention later. You have just heard Jesus turn the religious world on its head. And the good news is that you have found that you, as a believer who has repented and trusted in Jesus are now qualified, in fact as a believer, you are now in the kingdom.

We come off the heels of Jesus speaking about how His disciples will be persecuted.

*Mt. 5:10-12*

*10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Jesus told them, and eventually us, in no uncertain terms that there would be persecution for following Him.

- When this happens we want to circle the wagons.
- Christianity is not just about us. It is not just about us becoming better people so we feel better about ourselves.
- We go to our comfort zone – where ministry goes to die.
- But we are supposed to be active in the world and the community.

- Why are we not supposed to be on the defensive but the offensive? Jesus tells us in the next verses.

### *Believers Are Salt and Light*

*13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*

*14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Now we come to the point where Jesus takes the downtrodden and gives a part in His plan. Believers are the salt of the earth!

- The use of salt and its importance in the ancient world as a preservative, antiseptic, spice and currency.
- **We don't just possess the qualities of salt. WE ARE THE SALT!**
- Our very presence has a preserving effect on society.
- "The Only Thing Necessary for the Triumph of Evil is that Good Men Do Nothing." Edmund Burke
- If the world is going to Hell, we should help to slow that down.
- In the eschatological sense...He who letteth will let.
- The CC in Tel Aviv, vs. the orthodox Jews.
- Salt, sodium chloride is a stable compound. So how does it lose flavor? Salt and impurities, salt in the temple. Salting the Roman roads.
- If we don't act as a preservative, what purpose are we serving?
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*Light of the World.*

*14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

- We don't see anywhere in scripture where Jesus claims to be the salt of the earth, but we do see Him claiming to be the light of the world.

**Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." John 8:13**

- We don't only possess light; we like Jesus are the light! We bring light to the darkness!
- We are either a good light or a bad light, but we are a light. WE are not becoming a light.
- Oil lamps vs. strobes, LED's or lasers. (Don't be a dimmer switch Christian) simple and steady.
- Not an interrogation lamp. (Shine it before men, not in their eyes.)
- Our very lives are to be light to the darkness. By living as Jesus empowers us to live, we shine a light on this present dark-age.
- Eph. 5:8-16
- **19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." John 3:19 – 22**
- We are not being told how to get right with God. We are not being told to be saltier and brighter in order to acquire salvation. We are being told how to live once we have been

- made right with God. We are being shown how people that have been made right with God live their lives.
- **Deeds** – not salvation by works but evidence of our salvation by our works.
  - **18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. JAMES 2:18**
  - The copier we couldn’t use. A flashlight in the pocket.
  - The city on a hill. Saphed – used by fishermen at night, 3,000 feet above the valley.
  - The light on the lampstand gives light to all who are **IN THE HOUSE!** It starts at home.
  - The Holy Spirit wants not to condemn but to draw us into humble submission to God.
  - The goal of our shining is not to let people see how shiny we are. We are to show them how wonderful our Father in Heaven is! (The first time in the NT God is referred to as our father.)
  - A key to the metaphors used, salt and light is distinction! The world is rotting, so we are a preservative. The world is in darkness so we have to be light. We can’t be like the world to win the world. We have to be different – loving!
  - We all have a place. We all have a job.
  - We don’t become disciples once we are salty or shiny enough. We become disciples once we have repented and put our faith in Jesus Christ. We aren’t being told how to become disciples, but how we are to live once we have become disciples.
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- Have you felt unworthy? We all are! That is what grace is all about!
  - Anyone want to be a disciple?