

# Salt and Light: A Kingdom Perspective on Jesus' Followers in the World

In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:13-16), Jesus speaks about our identity and character. He declares that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Using these two images, he tells us who we *are* as his people in the world. He's telling us our value and our potential as he sees it and again God is giving us a chance to see ourselves from his kingdom perspective. Let's explore these images so we can better understand what they mean for how we behave and how we should interact with God's world as his disciples. We'll discuss the temptations we might face and grapple with what Jesus means when he warns us about losing our saltiness or hiding our light. Together, we'll grow in our kingdom perspective and understanding of how God values us and how we represent his kingdom in our world today, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What characteristics do you think a disciple of Jesus should possess?
- How are salt and light beneficial to you during your day?



**LISTEN TO THE EPISODE:** [Salt and Light: A Kingdom Perspective on Jesus' Followers in the World](#)

**READ** [Matthew 5:13-16](#)

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- What does it mean to you that being salt and light is part of your identity *already*—that it's who you are already in Christ, and it's not based on performance?
- In segment 1, host Scott Hoezee says, "if we are the salt of the earth, we as disciples need to get out into society and mix in, to bring out life's true flavor and beauty." How do you, as you already are, "bring out life's true flavor and beauty," by being in the world?
- In segment 2, Scott and host Darrell Delaney discuss the spirit of compromise and the temptation to dim our light, and compare this temptation to "a spiritual dimmer switch." In what situations are you tempted to turn down your spiritual dimmer switch? Ask yourself, what do I think will happen when I do that? Then ask yourself, what *might* happen if I don't and I continue to let Jesus' light shine through me?
- Scott and Darrell observe that an important part of being salt and light in the world is balancing our prophetic and priestly roles, concepts they describe from Richard Mouw's teaching. Revisit Scott's summary of the prophetic and priestly roles at the end of the first segment (begins at 07:14) and his continued discussion of it in segment 3 (starting at 20:06). Which comes easier for you, the prophetic role or the priestly role? Which do you need the Spirit's help to work on?

## RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Genesis 1:1-5](#), [John 1:1-5](#), [Ephesians 2:8-10](#), [James 2:14-26](#), [Micah 6:8](#), [John 17:6-19](#), [1 Peter 3:8-17](#)

## CONCLUSION

Reflect on what you learned about who you are in God's kingdom: salt and light. Remember, God values you for who you are before you do anything. Pick one of the roles or situations you find yourself in on a regular basis (i.e. parent, grandparent, teacher, customer, creator, builder, etc), then consider what it means for you to be salt and/or light in that role or situation. Close your time of reflection with prayer, asking for the Holy Spirit's power to help you in your daily life:

1. to remember you are already salt and light,
2. to help you live as the salt and light you are, and
3. to help you grow in either your prophetic or priestly role (based on your response to the fourth reflection question above).

---

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/salt-and-light-a-kingdom-perspective-on-jesus-followers-in-the-world>

*Printed on February 22, 2025*