

# Salty Lights

## Introduction:

Today we are going to continue on with our series in the Sermon on the Mount.

Before Easter - we finished the first block of verses in this incredible sermon - looking into the 8 Beatitude statements that Jesus makes!!!

And this week - we are going to continue on with the next section of verses in Matthew 5!!!!

TODAYS VERSES ARE VERY FAMILIAR TO US!!!  
YOU WILL HAVE READ THEM COUNTLESS TIMES BEFORE!!!!

And even some of the common phrases used in our world today when talking about other people - come from these words that Jesus shares with us in Matthew 5:13-16!!!!

THE VERSES THAT WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT TODAY - SHOULD BE A CHALLENGE TO EVERY CHRISTIAN IN THE ROOM TODAY!!!!

It is a challenge - that asks us to evaluate just how effective our christian character and witness is in the world around us!!!!

ARE WE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?  
ARE WE LIVING DIFFERENTLY TO THE WORLD AROUND US?  
AND ARE WE MAKING AN IMPACT FOR THE CAUSE OF JESUS?

Those are important questions to ask ourselves today!!!!

JESUS CHALLENGES US WITH 2 VERY IMPORTANT PICTURES OF WHAT WE OUGHT TO BE AND HOW WE OUGHT TO LIVE AS FOLLOWERS OF HIM:

He calls us to be:  
The Salt of The Earth  
The Light of the World

We are going to look into what exactly that means!!  
AND ALSO LOOK INTO THE FIGURATIVE PICTURE THAT JESUS IS SHARING WITH US,  
WHICH MAKES IT VERY CLEAR:

- \*What we ought to be - as christians
- \*The example that we ought to set
- \*The life that we ought to live

With that in mind - I want to preach a message this morning entitled:

Salty Lights

Matthew 5:13-16 - **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. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

THERE IS SO MUCH THAT WE NEED TO DEAL WITH AS WE LOOK AT THESE VERSES  
TOGETHER THIS MORNING!!!!

But let's think about the world around us for just a minute!!!!  
AND AS WE LOOK AT THE WORLD AROUND US - WE BEGIN TO SEE WHY THESE VERSES  
FROM JESUS ARE SO IMPORTANT!!!!

We begin to see why these verses are so applicable!!!!

AS WE LOOK AT THE MORAL AND SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE AND CONDITION OF OUR  
WORLD - I'M SURE YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THIS MORNING WHEN I SAY:

Our world is a dark place!!  
Or at the very least you will agree with me that - it is getting darker!!!!

MORALLY AND SPIRITUALLY!!!!

Not only that but - Our world is a decaying place!!!!

DECAY AGAIN - BOTH MORALLY AND SPIRITUALLY!!!!

But bring it closer to home today - England is a dark and decaying place - morally and spiritually!!!!  
LONDON - our city - is a dark and decaying place - morally and spiritually!!!!

AS YOU TURN ON YOUR TV  
WATCH YOUR MOVIES  
LISTEN TO CONVERSATIONS ON THE STREETS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT  
LOOK AT CRIME STATISTICS  
LOOK AT MURDER RATES  
LOOK AT THE MORAL VALUES IN OUR WORLD  
LOOK AT THE NON-EXISTENT RIGHTS AND MURDER OF THE UNBORN CHILD  
LOOK AT THE STATE AND SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE  
LOOK AT THE DRIFT FROM GOD'S DESIGN FOR LOVE AND RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY

Those are just a few of the big areas that we can look at - AND YOU CAN QUICKLY SEE THAT IT  
PAINTS A PICTURE OF SPIRITUAL DARKNESS AND DECAY IN OUR WORLD!!!  
IN OUR COUNTRY  
IN OUR CITY!  
IN OUR COMMUNITIES

And if we aren't careful to guard ourselves - it can very quickly invade:  
OUR FAMILIES  
AND  
OUR HOMES  
AND  
OUR CHILDREN  
AND  
OUR CHURCHES!!!!!!

Friends - in sight of those thoughts this morning - JESUS WORDS IN MATTHEW 5:13-16 ARE  
MORE APPLICABLE THAN EVER!!!!

MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER!!!!!!

We have been called by King Jesus to be - SALTY LIGHTS!!!!!!

## AND YOU MAY SAY THIS MORNING - WHAT ON EARTH IS A SALTY LIGHT?

That is what we are going to unpack as we deal with these verses today!!!!

JESUS CALLS US IN MATTHEW 5:13-16 TO BE:

The Salt of the Earth

The Light of the World!

And so we want to look at exactly why Jesus uses these 2 phrases and why they are so applicable and important in our world today!!!!

Let's start by looking at:

### 1. We Must be 'The Salt Of The Earth' (v.13)

WE MUST - Be the salt of the earth!!!!

Look at Jesus command in v.13:

Matthew 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.**

JESUS HAS CALLED US TO BE THE SALT OF THE EARTH!!!!

I find it interesting that people all over our world use this phrase!!!

THE WORLD HAS ADOPTED THIS PHRASE - AND THEY DON'T EVEN REALISE IT IS FROM THE BIBLE!!!!

I'm sure you have heard someone describe a person by saying - They really are the salt of the earth!!!!

The dictionary give this definition for the phrase:

**'A very good and honest person'**

Wikipedia - **'A person who is thoroughly decent'**

Wiktionary - **'A most worthy person. A decent, dependable, unpretentious person'**

AND SO YOU CAN ALREADY GET THE IDEA THAT THIS IS A VERY POSITIVE PHRASE!!!!

To be called the 'salt of the earth' is a very high compliment!!!!

BUT WHAT DOES THE BIBLE MEAN AND WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN EXACTLY WHENEVER HE CALLS US TO BE THE SALT OF THE EARTH?

The dictionary and wikipedia aren't far off the true meaning - but we want to delve a bit deeper into this figurative picture that Jesus has painted for us!

Here are a few things that we learn as we think about this figurative picture that Jesus shares about being 'salt of the earth':

#### **a. In a decaying world we are to picture purity**

As we think about this picture Jesus shares of us being 'salt of the earth' - SALT WAS SEEN IN THE 1ST CENTURY AS PICTURING PURITY!!!!

It is easy to see the immediate connection with purity - based on the fact that salt is white!!!  
WHITE IS A COLOUR OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH PURITY!!!!

Whenever we think of purity - we don't think about - black, blue, yellow, grey!

WHITE IS THE COLOUR MOST ASSOCIATED WITH PURITY!!!!

Therefore one of the immediate applications and challenges of being the 'salt of the earth' is that in a world that is quickly decaying - **WE SHOULD BE PEOPLE THAT UPHOLD MORAL AND SPIRITUAL PURITY!!!!**

That we set an example and a standard of goodness and godliness - even whenever everything around us is the opposite!!!!

**If we are to be the 'salt of the earth' that Jesus has called us to be - we must first assess our own life and ask ourselves - are we striving to live pure lives?**

Are we pursuing spiritual purity?

Are we pursuing Christlikeness?

Are we striving to put away any marks of ungodliness and impurity from our lives - SO THAT WE CAN VIVIDLY CONTRAST THE DECAYING WORLD THAT WE ARE LIVING IN!!!!

I challenge you today - member of Chelsea Church

I challenge you today - Christian brother and sister!!!!

WE SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED WHEN WE SEE IMPURITY IN THE WORLD

WE SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED WHEN WE SEE SPIRITUAL DECAY IN OTHERS OUTSIDE OF CHRIST

WE SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED WHEN WE SEE UNGODLINESS IN OUR SOCIETY

WE SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED WHEN WE SEE IMMORALITY IN OUR WORLD'S MEDIA PLATFORMS!!!!

But that should never be the case with us as God's people!!!!

WE SHOULD BE STRIVING TO GO AGAINST THE GRAIN OF THE WORLD!!!

WE SHOULD BE STRIVING TO BE DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT!!

WE SHOULD BE STRIVING TO BE A BEACON OF PURITY AND AN EXAMPLE OF CHRISTLIKENESS!!!!

WE SHOULD BE STRIVING TO SET OURSELVES APART FROM THE WAYS OF THIS DECAYING WORLD!!!

WE SHOULD STRIVE TO BE 'THE SALT OF THE EARTH'!!!!

And the first application that we have looked at - regarding being the 'salt of the earth' is that need to be pure!!!!

TO STRIVE TO BE A PILLAR OF PURITY IN A WORLD FULL OF IMPURITY!

TO STRIVE TO BE A CHANNEL OF CHRISTLIKENESS IN A WORLD FULL OF IMMORALITY!!!

It doesn't surprise me whenever I see impurity in the lives of the non-christian!

But it saddens me whenever I see impurity in the lives of the child of God!!!!

AND THAT INCLUDES MY OWN LIFE!!!!

WE MUST BATTLE FOR SPIRITUAL PURITY

WE MUST FIGHT FOR SPIRITUAL PURITY AND GODLINESS AND HOLINESS!!!!

We have been called to be distinctly different from the world around us!!!!

AND THE WORDS OF JESUS IN MATTHEW 5:13-16 THAT WE ARE LOOKING AT TODAY -

CLEARLY SHOW THAT WE ARE TO BE DISPLAYING THIS DIFFERENCE FOR THE WORLD TO SEE!!!!

That the world can see that I am that salt in this decaying earth!!!  
That the world can see that I am a light in this dark world!!!

FRIENDS IN THIS WORLD FULL OF MORAL AND SPIRITUAL DECAY - WE ARE TO STRIVE TO BE PURE AND LIVE PURE - MORALLY AND SPIRITUALLY!!!!

Secondly:

**b. In a decaying world we are to preserve goodness**

This is the most common application and use of salt - IT IS USED AS A PRESERVATIVE!!!!  
In days before refrigeration - in order to keep meat good, and to stop it from going bad and decaying - PEOPLE WOULD PUT SALT OVER THEIR MEAT!!!!

This would slow down the process of decay!  
It would preserve the food from going bad!!!!

AND WHAT A PICTURE THAT IS!!!  
IT IS LINKED IN WITH THE FIRST APPLICATION AS WE THINK ABOUT THE WORLD WE ARE IN AND THE EXAMPLE WE SHOULD BE SETTING!!!

We have been called by Jesus to be 'the salt of the earth'!!!  
WE MUST BE PRESERVATIVES OF GOODNESS AND MORALITY IN THIS DECAYING WORLD!!!!

Like we mentioned before - this world is going the wrong way!  
It is in moral decline!  
It is going further into spiritual decay!  
EVERY SINGLE CHRISTIAN IN THIS WORLD HAS BEEN CALLED TO INFLUENCE THIS WORLD AS A PRESERVATIVE OF GOODNESS AND GODLINESS!!!!

To slow down the decaying process!!!  
And to spread spiritual goodness!!!

THIS WORLD THAT IS SLOWLY DECAYING AND 'GOING BAD' - NEEDS MORE SALT!!!!  
It needs Christians that will step up and be counted for!!!  
It needs Christian men who will lead their homes and be the salt in their families and in their workplaces  
It needs Christian women who will do likewise!!!

It needs Christians that will make commitments and say:  
I WILL BE SALT - IN MY FAMILY  
I WILL BE SALT THAT PROMOTES AND PRESERVES GOODNESS:

- \*In my marriage
- \*In my children's lives
- \*In my workplace
- \*In my church
- \*In my community
- \*In my city!

SATAN WILL DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO PROMOTE DECAY IN ALL OF THESE PLACES!!!  
WE HAVE BEEN CALLED BY KING JESUS TO PRESERVE GOODNESS AND PREVENT DECAY!!!!

That every single one of us are to spread out from this place across our families, communities, towns, and our country - AS THE SALT OF THE EARTH!!!!

Preventing decay  
And preserving goodness  
And promoting Jesus!!!!

Lastly:

### **c. In a decaying world we are to enhance and bring flavour**

AS THE SALT OF THE EARTH - WE HAVE A MASSIVE CHALLENGE TO - STAND OUT IN THIS WORLD OF DECAY!!!

One of my favourite uses of salt is - TO ENHANCE AND FLAVOUR!!!

You ever sat down to a meal - and the food is just completely bland and tasteless?  
You ever sat down to a delicious looking meal - and all that it was lacking to enhance it and bring out it's full flavour - was a little bit of salt?

WE HAVE ALL BEEN THERE!!!  
Salt enhances!  
Salt brings flavour!!!!

AND WHAT A PICTURE OF WHAT THE CHRISTIAN OUGHT TO BE DOING IN THIS DECAYING WORLD!!!!

Let's be honest for a minute - most people don't realise this - but living a life without Jesus - is bland, tasteless, and a shadow of what true life is all about!!!!

WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO BE ENHANCERS IN THIS WORLD THAT BRING THE FLAVOUR OF JESUS TO EVERYTHING WE INTERACT WITH!!!!

Everywhere we go - spreading Jesus!  
Sharing Jesus!  
Leaving a trace of Jesus in every conversation we have  
In every friendship we entertain  
In every place we go  
To every person we meet!!!!

WE HAVE BEEN CALLED AS CHRISTIANS TO BE THAT 'SALT OF THE EARTH'!!!!

That enhances the 'spiritual flavour' of our world - and to let others taste Jesus through my life!!!!

WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO BE - SALT IN A DECAYING WORLD!!!!

Secondly:

## **2. We Must Be 'The Light of The World' (v.14-15)**

We come this second picture that Jesus gives us!!!  
AND WHAT A CHALLENGE THIS IS FOR US TODAY!!!!

Matthew 5:14-15 - **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.**

YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!!!!

What a calling!

What a challenge

What a commission

Here's some very simple, obvious, yet important truths about light:

**a. In a dark world we are to shine in the darkness**

One of the most obvious things that light does - IS THAT IT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS!!!

THERE ARE FEWER GREATEST CONTRASTS THAN DARKNESS AND LIGHT!!!

Than being in a pitch black room, and then lighting that candle, or turning on that light - AND  
EXPPELLING AND EXTINGUISHING THE DARKNESS!!!!

THAT IS OUR CALLING!

THAT IS OUR CHALLENGE!!!!

We are to shine as lights in this dark world that we live in!!!!

IN A WORLD OF SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DARKNESS - WE SHOULD BE RADICALLY  
DIFFERENT!!!!

We have been called - to be lights in this dark world!!!!

Spreading the light of Jesus everywhere we go - to everyone that we meet!!!!

BOTH INDIVIDUALLY IN OUR OWN LIVES

AND CORPORATELY AS CHELSEA CHURCH - WE ARE LITTLE LIGHTS IN THIS WORLD!!!

And if each person takes seriously the call to be 'the light of the world' - IT GOES WITHOUT  
SAYING THAT THERE WILL BE A LITTLE LESS DARKNESS IN THIS WORLD!!!

Friends - for our light to shine most effectively - we must be striving to live for Jesus, and follow  
Jesus!!!

WHENEVER WE ARE LIVING AS WE SHOULD, DOING AS WE SHOULD, SETTING THE  
SPIRITUAL EXAMPLE THAT WE SHOULD, SHARING JESUS AS WE SHOULD - OUR LIGHT SO  
SHINES BEFORE MEN!!!!!!

**But whenever we let our flesh take over**

Whenever the Devil comes tempting and we give in

Whenever the world influences us with it's darkness and we compromise

IT IS THEN THAT WE HIDE THE LIGHT THAT WE HAVE

IT IS THEN THAT WE TAKE THAT LIGHT AND HIDE IT UNDER A BUSHEL

IT IS THEN THAT WE LOSE OUR CHANCE TO INFLUENCE THE DARK WORLD AROUND  
US!!!!

**Let me ask you - How is your light?**

Is it on display?

Is it shining brightly and extinguishing darkness?

Or:

Is it hidden away?

Is it fading and flickering?

FRIENDS - IF WE HAVE JESUS - WE HAVE LIGHT!!

WE HAVE A CHANCE TO INFLUENCE THIS DARK WORLD FOR HIM!!!!

The question is - What are we going to do with that light?  
Are we going to let our light shine before men?  
Or are we hiding it away?

THERE IS NOTHING SADDER THAN A CHRISTIAN WHO HAS THE LIGHT OF JESUS LIVING IN THEIR HEART - BUT IT HIDING IT AWAY FROM THE WORLD AROUND THEM!!!!

Whether that's through:

\*Sin - and giving in to temptation and lust and worldliness

\*Shame - hiding the relationship that we have with Jesus, instead of shining it out for all to see

IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN IN HERE - YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED TO BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!!!

YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED TO GO AND SHINE FOR CHRIST IN YOUR FAMILY!

YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED TO GO AND SHINE YOUR LIGHT IN YOUR WORKPLACE

YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED TO GO AND SHIEN YOUR LIGHT IN YOUR FRIENDSHIP CIRCLES

IN YOUR PLACES OF EDUCATION

IN YOUR SCHOOLS

IN YOUR UNIVERSITIES

IN YOUR HOBBIES

IN YOUR COMMUNITIES

You have been called to go forth and be a 'light of the world' that is filled with much darkness!!!!

THIS WORLD DOESN'T NEED YOU TO HIDE YOUR LIGHT - It has enough darkness as it is!!!  
IT NEEDS LIGHT!

IT NEEDS YOU TO UNASHAMEDLY, BOLDLY, PROUDLY AND PASSIONATELY SHINE FOR JESUS THE BRIGHTEST THAT YOU POSSIBLY CAN!!!!

That means:

Dealing with sin struggles in your life

Confessing the times that you fallen and faltered

Battling against fear and the temptation to hid your faith in your families, friendships and workplaces and educational institutions!!!!

AND TO SHINE YOUR LIGHT!!!!

LIGHT WAS MADE TO CONTRAST, EXTINGUISH AND ERADICATE DARKNESS!!!!  
THAT IS WHAT THE PURPOSE OF OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE IS!!!!

TO SHINE FOR JESUS

TO SHINE IN THE DARKNESS

TO SHINE LIKE THE BRIGHTEST LIGHT IN THE DARKEST NIGHT!!!

TO CONTRAST AND EXPEL THE DARKNESS THAT IS IN THE WORLD AROUND US - FOR JESUS SAKE!!!!

**'Ye are the light of the world'!!!**

THIS WORLD NEEDS YOU TO BOLDLY DISPLAY YOUR LIGHT!  
TO SHINE OUT FOR ALL AROUND YOU TO SEE!!!

**b. In a dark world we are to display His Light**

Here's the deal:



And we are never more like Jesus and never more in tune with Him than when we are shining our light for Him!!!!

I want you to think about this - JESUS GIVES US HIS IDENTITY AS OUR OWN!!!!

John 9:5 - As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

John 1:4-5 - In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:9-10 - That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

JESUS CAME INTO THIS WORLD AS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!!!!

AND THE WORLD RECEIVED HIM NOT!!!!

Now:

Jesus is ascended up into heaven

He is no longer here in bodily form!!!

YOU KNOW HOW JESUS WANTS TO SHINE HIS LIGHT IN THIS WORLD?  
THROUGH YOU!!!!!!

If you know Jesus as your Saviour - you have Jesus in your heart and in your life!!!

THEREFORE:

You have 'the light of the world' as your Saviour and in your life - AND YOU ARE NOW CALLED TO REPRESENT, REFLECT AND RADIATE THE LIGHT OF JESUS FOR ALL TO SEE!!!!

Just as sure as Jesus came into this world as the light of the world in his human life - HE NOW WANTS TO SHINE AS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD THROUGH YOU!!!!

IN YOU!

BY YOU!!!

The question is:

Are you shining forth your light for Him?

Are you letting Jesus shine His light through you?

OR NOT?

IT IS A SAD SIGHT WHENEVER CHRISTIANS HINDER THE WORK THAT JESUS WANTS TO DO AND THE PURPOSES HE WANTS TO ACCOMPLISH - WITH THE MANNER OF THEIR LIFE!!!!!!

Whenever we are a barrier to the light being spread  
Rather than a channel of his light!!!

FRIENDS - WE HAVE TO ASSESS OUR LIVES!

WE HAVE TO LOOK AT OURSELVES HONESTLY AND ASK OURSELVES:

Am I living in such a way that I am allowing Jesus to shine most brightly and work most effectively through my life?

Is there anything that I am doing in my life that is hindering the light of Jesus being spread through my life?

IF THERE IS THIS MORNING - YOU NEED TO GET ALONE WITH GOD!

YOU NEED GET IT RIGHT WITH GOD!

YOU NEED TO GET ON TRACK WITH GOD!

AND YOU NEED TO THEN STRIVE TO SHINE YOUR LIGHT ONCE MORE!!!!!!

Get your light out from under it's bushel!  
Get your light out from under the blanket  
Get your light out from it's hiding place!!!  
AND LET IT SHINE!!!  
Put it on a stand for all to see!!!!

TAKE A STAND FOR JESUS!  
AND LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN!!!!

**You have been called by 'the light of the world' - KING JESUS  
TO BE 'THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD'!!!!!!**

And the only way that you can do that is to let Jesus take control!  
Let Jesus have His way in your life!  
Let Jesus have the reins  
And let Jesus shine brightly through you and in you!!!!

THAT IS WHAT OUR FAMILIES NEED  
THAT IS WHAT OUR COMMUNITIES NEED  
THAT IS WHAT OUR CHURCHES NEED  
They need christians that will boldly, unashamedly and unreservedly - SHINE THEIR LIGHT  
BEFORE MEN - AND BE LIGHTS IN THIS DARK WORLD!!!!!!

Another important attribute of light:

### **c. In a dark world we are to direct the way**

We have all been in a dark place before:  
Your stumbling around  
Your trying to find your way  
Your trying not to damage or brake anything  
Your trying not to hurt yourself!  
Your tip-toeing around trying to find your way through the darkness!!!!

YOU KNOW THE ONE THING THAT WOULD MAKE THAT WHOLE EXPERIENCE EASIER - One light!

I walk through this building in the darkness - and it is a creepy experience  
Downstairs in the basement in the evenings - IT IS THE WORST - TOTAL DARKNESS  
Cant see anything  
Don't know where your going  
But whenever I turn on that light - everything changes - the light illuminates the way and directs me!!!!

LIGHT IS NECESSARY FOR GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION!!!  
Whether it is ships and lighthouses  
Whether it is cars and country roads  
Whether it is bikes and dim parks at night  
Whether it is people stumbling around in the basement of Chelsea Church

LIGHT ILLUMINATES THE WAY AND DIRECTS THE PATH!!!!

**You know what we have been called to be for those in this dark world?**  
LIGHTS  
PEOPLE THAT ILLUMINATE THE WAY

## PEOPLE THAT DIRECT THE PATH FOR OTHERS!!!

I think it's obvious what I'm talking about but let me spell it out for you:  
JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE!!!!

And we have been called to illuminate the way!!!  
TO BRING OTHERS TO A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN COME TO KNOW JESUS!!!!!!

To shine as a light and direct the paths of others - so that they come in contact with the Saviour!

Friends:

We live in a world where people are stumbling around in Spiritual Darkness

We live in a world where people are lost in the dark

THEY NEED SOMEONE THAT IS WILLING TO SHINE THEIR LIGHT AND DIRECT THEIR PATH  
TO JESUS!!!!

And that someone needs to be you!!!!  
You personally need to shine your light for Him!

You personally have a responsibility to shine your light in such a manner - that enables other  
people to come to know Jesus as Saviour!

THAT MEANS - Living in a manner that represents Jesus

Speaking in a manner that represents Jesus

And preaching in a manner that represents Jesus

SO THAT THROUGH YOUR CHARACTER, YOUR CONDUCT AND YOUR CONVERSATION -  
OTHERS ARE BROUGHT TO THE LIGHT OF THE SAVIOUR!!!!

May we - SHINE OUR LIGHT IN THIS DARK WORLD!!!!

As Jesus has called us to be - THE LIGHTS OF THE WORLD!!!!

## CONCLUSION

We come towards a close this morning and the verses share with us the commands - BUT THEY  
ALSO SHARE WITH US THE SAD SIGHT OF A WASTED LIFE!!!!!!

Matthew 5:13-15 - **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. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a  
candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the  
house**

Friends - salt that has lost it's saltiness - IS USELESS!!  
A light that is hidden away - IS A WASTE!!!!

You and I must decide every single way - THAT WE DON'T WANT TO LIVE A WASTED USELESS  
CHRISTIAN LIFE!!!

**WE WANT TO LIVE AS SALTY LIGHTS IN A DARK AND DECAYING WORLD!!!!!!**

Let me say this:

It doesn't matter how much money you make

It doesn't matter how many friends you have

It doesn't matter how close you are with your family

It doesn't matter how high up in your job you get  
It doesn't matter if you get to the top of your field  
It doesn't matter if you have a nice house  
It doesn't matter if you have nice things and lots of possessions  
It doesn't matter if you have everything you need and want in this life  
IF YOU ARE HIDING YOUR LIGHT  
AND WASTING YOUR SALT!!!

If you come to the end of your life:

**AND YOU LIVED YOUR LIFE WITH YOUR LIGHT HIDDEN AND YOUR SALT HAVING LOST  
IT'S SALTINESS - You wasted your life!!!**

You wasted your chance!

You wasted your opportunity to make a difference and to spread the influence of Jesus!!!

WE HAVE ONE SHOT

WE HAVE ONE CHANCE

WE HAVE ONE LIFE

AND WE HAVE CONTROL OVER THE CHOICES WE MAKE AND THE PATHS THAT WE  
CHOOSE!!!!

YOU TODAY AND EVERY DAY - Must choose to be 'the light of the world'

YOU EVERY DAY - Must choose to be 'the salt of the earth'!!!

THERE ARE FEWER THINGS THAT GLORIFY GOD MORE THAN SOMEONE THAT IS SALT  
AND LIGHT IN THIS WORLD:

Matthew 5:16 - **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify  
your Father which is in heaven.**

WE GLORIFY GOD WHEN WE FULFIL OUR ROLE AS SALT AND LIGHT

But friend - that means the opposite is true whenever we fail in our role and responsibility of being  
salt and light

WE GLORIFY HIM - WHEN WE ARE THE SALT AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

WE GRIEVE HIM - WHEN WE FAIL TO BE THE SALT AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD!!!!

We must decide:

Will we shine our light?

Will we flavour, enhance and preserve this world as the salt of the earth?

**THE CHOICE MY FRIEND IS YOURS!!!**

With the lifestyle you live

The convictions you live by

Your decisions to live by God's Word

THOSE THINGS WILL DECIDE WHETHER YOU FULFIL YOUR ROLE AS A 'SALTY LIGHT' IN  
THIS DARK AND DECAYING WORLD!!!

Or - whether you fail in your responsibility and waste the life and influence you have been given to  
be a 'salty light' for Jesus!!!!

THE CHOICE IS YOURS TO MAKE TODAY!!!