

Salt and Light of the World

The credibility of Christians in our world today is probably at an all-time low. Christian views and thoughts are not welcomed in the public sphere anymore, and there seems to be a general antagonism against everything that Christians stand for today. There are many reasons that can be attributed to that, but one of them has to be the poor witness of many Christians to our faith over the decades. Many Christians do not practise what they preach, and it is not surprising then that our world today considers many Christians to be hypocrites. There have also been many high profile church leaders with moral failures and had to be removed from their roles. All these have diminished the credibility of our Christian message in the wider world.

As Christians, our roles is to be salt and light of the world. This is a familiar message to many Christians throughout the world. It is a memorable way for Jesus to highlight our roles in this world as Christians. Our conduct and behaviour should make us stand out in a good way, and through that glorify God in heaven. Let us examine in greater detail what Jesus means by these very familiar terms.

Launch

- 1) What impact do you think there will be in your local community if all the churches there disappeared?

SALT AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Read Matthew 5:13-16

- 2) What does Jesus say Christians are in v13?
 - a. List out as many useful functions of salt in our lives.
- 3) What happens to salt that loses its saltiness? What are some ways that salt lose its saltiness?
 - a. How can Christians lose their “Christian-ness”? What are ways that Christian do that today?
- 4) What else does Jesus say Christians are? (Matt 5:14) What is a function of a light? (v15)
 - a. Does that mean that Christians are meant to be “showing off” or boasting about all their good deeds to everyone? (v16a) If not, what does Jesus mean by “letting our light shine before others”?
- 5) What are some examples of Christians over the centuries acting as light of the world?



- a. What are some simple ways that we can start doing that today without coming across as “arrogant”?
- 6) What does it mean that once others see our good deeds and “glorify [our] Father in heaven? Does that mean that they will start believing in Christ?

Read Isaiah 49:5-7

- 7) Who is the person that is referred to in Isaiah 49:5-7?
 - a. What is this person supposed to be doing? (Isa 49:5)
 - b. What does Yhwh say to this person? What will this person be to the Gentiles? (Isa 49:6)
 - c. Based on Luke 2:27-32, who is this person that is being talked about in Isaiah 49?
- 8) How has this person “shine” his light in the world? What are some examples that we can learn from?
- 9) How can we help each other to be salt and light in this world?
- 10) Spend some time coming up with simple and practical ideas with one another where you can be salt and light in your own situation/circumstance.

Conclusion

If we are disciples of Christ, then we are salt and light of the world. It is a statement of fact, rather than a command given to us. However, that is only true because Jesus himself first became the light of the world – through his perfect sinless life and his death and resurrection for us. Over the centuries, Christians have enriched the lives of those around them. They were the ones who started schools, hospitals, and many other charity foundations. On a more individual level, Christians should be better parents, colleagues, customers, neighbours, or clients. Being salt and light of the world means that we are meant to enrich the lives of those around us. We are not to hide our Christian faith, but rather let it be the basis through which we live in this world. If we do that, people will see our good deeds, and glorify our heavenly Father.