

The Light of the World – Pt. 1

Matthew 5:14–16

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MAIN IDEA: In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus explains the purpose or mission that God has given to every Christian with regard to the world—to be influencers. Jesus teaches that if we belong to his spiritual kingdom, then he has given us the ability and the responsibility to powerfully influence the people in our lives.

The Similarities of Salt & Light

1. Both were made by God.
2. Both are common in every home.
3. Both must be intentionally put in place to work.
4. Both have limited impact alone.
5. Both are distinct from what they influence.
6. Both describe our world in horrific terms—as rotten and dark.

The Differences of Salt & Light

1. Salt is primarily negative; light is primarily positive.
2. Salt retards decay and rottenness; light dispels darkness.

OUTLINE:

- I. The Picture Jesus Uses (14a)
 - A. Two Kinds of Light
 1. The collective light of the lamps of an entire city (14b)
 2. The individual light of a lamp in a one-room home (15)
 - B. Two Functions of Light
 1. Exposes the filth hidden in darkness
 2. Reveals the beauty hidden in darkness
- II. The Point Jesus Makes (14b-16)
 - A. Our Influence Is Inevitable (14b) – “cannot be hidden”
 - B. Our Influence Is Intentional (15-16)
 1. To Give Light to the World (15)
 - To expose what is false and sinful (Job 24:13-17; Jn. 3:19-20; Eph. 5:11-13)
 - To illuminate what is true and beautiful (Jn. 3:21; Eph. 5:9)

BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS

1. Read John 3:21. What does this verse teach us about the importance of believers living and practicing the truth? Discuss.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. As it relates to being the “light of the world,” discuss and brainstorm ways in which we can intentionally and practically be light.
2. Why is it sometimes challenging/difficult to expose what is false and sinful in our world? Why do we shy away from engaging in these types of conversations? Discuss.
3. What are practical ways to illuminate/highlight what is good, true, and beautiful in this world? Why should our own souls be mindful of these things?