

WHAT JESUS SAID – THEN AND NOW

Unsalty Salt and Dark Light

TEXT: Mt. 5:13 - 16

INTRODUCTION –You know, Jesus was talking to us as much as He was to them. Being followed by a multitude of people who had come from all over everywhere, Jesus marched up a mountain, plopped Himself down on a rock and began to teach them. And with them, us. He taught us.

And what Jesus said was often so simple, yet so profound.

Often simple.

Always profound.

I admit that sometimes what Jesus said seems cryptic, like talking about unsalty salt and dark light, but what He said was always profound.

Very, very practical and profound.

And He said it as much to us and for us as for any of them who heard it the first time.

Matthew 5:13–16 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.

I. WE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

A. We are God’s agents of preservation.

B. Our ability to slow the decay of the world is given to us by God as part of the new birth.

1. One of the transformations Christ makes in us when He saves us is making us a hindrance to evil.
2. We, believers, by virtue of our redemption, the change Jesus has made in our lives, are to slow down the rush of the world toward the wicked ways of the evil one.
3. For instance, it is believers who slow down the movement of our country and our world to wholesale abortion on demand.
 - a. **While abortion remains widely available around the world, the number of abortions in the United States has been persistently**

decreasing. The last year for which statistics are available indicate that nearly 22% of pregnancies in the US end in abortion, a number still far too high, but lower than it was years ago.

- b. **Twelve states enacted pro-life legislation in 2014.**
 - c. **Why this progress?** Almost exclusively **because of the influence of followers of the Lord Jesus Christ!** – The salt of the earth!
4. It is believers who oppose and fight against the redefinition of marriage away from the clearly defined standard of Almighty God of one man and one woman in lifelong covenant together.

(And by the way, God bless Judge Roy Moore and those who stand with him in Alabama, against renegade federal judges who not only usurp the authority of God but our own United States Constitution by taking to themselves rights not granted them by constitution or by law.

It is almost enough to make me say “Roll Tide!” - Almost!)

C. **Why are we warned about salt losing its flavor?**

1. Literally, “salt losing its saltiness”
2. **Chemically, salt cannot lose its saltiness.** A single, pure grain of sodium chloride will always taste salty.
3. **A batch of salt will only lose its saltiness when it is corrupted by contamination with gypsum or other minerals which cause it to taste flat or even repulsive.**
4. Likewise, a born again believer cannot lose his innate saltiness, just as he cannot lose Christ.
5. However, **we can lose our preserving influence if we allow our lives to be contaminated.**
 - a. **By unrepented sin**
 - b. **By apathy**
 - c. **By fear of man rather than fear of God**
 - d. **By preoccupation with lesser things**

Which do you know more about?

- **Who will be coaching top college football teams next season?**
 - **Status of the “Life at Conception” Act in Congress right now?**
6. **God has made us to be salt!**
We have God given influence, if we will use it.
 - a. **Care**
 - b. **Pray**
 - c. **Vote**
 7. **I am convinced that if we believers had done these things consistently in the past, we would not have seen over 55 million babies killed in the**

womb in the United States since the infamous Roe v Wade legalization of abortion.

8. When the church is raptured, it will only take 7 years for the there to literally be hell on earth. That is how much difference it makes for us to be salt!

II. WE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

A. We are the way, at least one of the ways, God sends His truth, shows His direction to the people of the world.

B. We are the light of the world because the Light of the World lives in us.

1. **He has given us the light of His truth in the Scriptures.**
2. **Our role as light is to shine, not just for ourselves, but for others.**
3. **As lights**
 - a. **We are meant to be seen.** (We are witnesses of Jesus!)
 - b. **We are meant to be a guide.** (like the lights that mark the channel)
 - c. **We are meant to be warning lights.** (like watchmen on the wall)

C. Why does Jesus contrast the light on the lampstand with the light under a basket?

1. Because **just as salt cannot lose its innate saltiness, so also light cannot yield its ability to shine.**
2. **Salt loses its saltiness by contamination.**
3. **Light loses its shining by being covered.**
We lose the shining effect of the light within us when it is covered.
 - a. **Silence**
 - b. **Ignorance of the Scripture**
 - c. **Pride**
 - d. **Self-centeredness**
4. Much of our world is in ignorance concerning the sanctity of human life because we Christians have not been diligent in shining our light by declaring the truth of God's Word.
5. **The Scripture declares**
 - a. **Life begins at conception. (the same thing now validated by science)**
 - b. **Life comes from God. We are fearfully and wonderfully made!**
 - c. **The unjust destruction of life is an abomination to God.**
 - d. **Everybody loses when innocent life is taken.**
 - The person being killed
 - The ones doing the killing
 - The ones consenting to the killing
 - The society suffering the loss
 - The nation permitting the sin

CONCLUSION: When we were born again, God made us salt and light. We can no more lose our saltiness than sodium chloride can change its chemical signature. We can no more extinguish the light of the Lord Jesus Who shines within us than we can put out the sun.

But we can contaminate the flavor of our lives and thus ruin our influence.

We can cover the light by refusing to know or refusing to testify of God's truth.

But Jesus said, simply yet profoundly,

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

The good works are not the great things accomplished by human hands, but they are the beautiful things God has worked within us. Let people see what the Lord has done in you, and then they will give honor to Him who reigns in heaven.