

Title: Light Up the City!

Text: Matthew 5:13-16

Target: God's word is designed to empower and equip us, so that we maximize the gifts within us, individually and collectively. God is calling us to step up and to step out by using our gifts and influence to point people to Jesus! We are called to be salt and light!

I. The **Purpose** of the Salt: Evaluates **the Heart**

- a. *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing, you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* - **Romans 12:2**
- b. *"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you know how you ought to answer each person."* – **Colossians 4:6**

II. The **Placement** of the Light: Eliminates **the Darkness**

- a. *"But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light"* – **Ephesians 5:13-14**
- b. *"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* – **John 1:4-5**

III. The **Priority** of the City: Elevates **the Messiah**

- a. *"And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb"* – **Revelation 21:23**
- b. *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* – **John 8:12**

Discussion Questions: Salt and Light. I love the fact that salt only works once it leaves the shaker. Unseasoned food near salt is still unseasoned. It's only once the salt encounters the food that the flavor is enhanced. The same can be said with light. Read John 1:4-5. Light is intended to illuminate the darkness. Darkness never overtakes light...ever. It's always the other way around. But if we don't shine the light, what's the point in having the light? It's like having a salt shaker and refusing to shake out salt

onto our unseasoned french fries. Why even have the salt if you aren't going to use it? It becomes useless. This is the point Jesus was making.

Martin Luther King once said, "darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that." We have the salt and the light that this world so desperately needs. Yet, if we keep them to ourselves they are both essentially worthless.

Who in your life was significant in sharing the salt and light of Jesus with you? With whom are you sharing salt and light? If nobody, think of two people in your sphere of influence with whom you be salt and light this week.

Take Away: The more we **light up the city** with the gospel and point people to Jesus, the more **changed lives** we will see! When we **let our light shine**, we help **guide others** out of darkness, and we help **guard against** them going back into the darkness! Our light matters!