



Salt and Light

Aug 10

INTRODUCTION: Jesus has just been teaching about Kingdom characteristics (what we are). Here he continues to address His disciples in what they must be.

CHALLENGE: In one sitting, read the whole sermon often over the coming months.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Temptation, Mt 4:1–11)

- Describe temptation in your own words.
- Why did Satan tempt Jesus when He did? How is this key to understanding each temptation.
- What is the significance of where Jesus was tempted?
- What lessons can we learn from Jesus' temptation?
- What was central to Jesus' fight against Satan?
- Other...

READ: Mt 5:13–16

QUESTIONS:

1. What significance is it that salt and light follow the Beatitudes?
2. *We often hear that religion is a private matter. How is it impossible for one's faith in Jesus to remain private?*
3. As we practice righteousness against the backdrop of a sinful world what will be the result? *Jesus shares two metaphors to illustrate this.*

Salt

4. What do we predominantly use salt for today?
5. Prior to refrigeration, what did people from the pioneers to the ancients use salt for?
6. How should Christians have a preserving and flavouring effect upon the earth?
7. If Christians are salt what does Jesus imply about the earth?

8. Do we glory in our distinctiveness from the world? *In the early church the Christians "out-lived, out-thought and out-died" the pagans. Can this be said of today?*
9. *Salt will always be salt, but it can become corrupted or diluted. (The ancient world they did not have purified table salt, salt came as rock salt, which was mixed with other minerals. Once the salt was all gone it was thrown out).*
10. *In the ancient world the street was the local garbage dump. If we compromise or fail to live out the Christian life, what good are we?*

Light

11. *We live in a light-polluted world. In remote areas darkness is truly dark and even the faintest light truly brilliant. Share a time of natural light or darkness.*
12. **What spiritual connotations come to mind when you think of light and darkness?**
13. *Jesus famously said "I AM the light of the world" (Jn 8:12). Paul likewise spoke of a kingdom of darkness and a kingdom of light (Col 1:13). Peter too speaks of being called from darkness to light (1 Pe 2:9). When we are transformed by the Light we become the light of the world (Tit 2:10).*
14. *Jesus' uses two illustrations: a city [maybe Nazareth?] and a lamp. What logic is He conveying in these illustrations?*
15. **What is our light?**
16. **What good do Christians bring to society?**
17. *One illustration that may be helpful is that God is the greater light (sun) and we are the lesser light (moon). Some find it difficult to gaze at the greater light (worship service, Bible study, prayer, etc), however, they may gaze upon us as the lesser lights, give glory and be led to the light.*
18. **How does the Lord use our goodness in witness?**

Next Week: Christ's Fulfilment of the Law (Mt 5:17–20)