

Exposition of Matthew Salt and Light (5:13-16)

I. You are the salt of the earth (13)

A. The declaration

1. You are the salt of the earth

- a) Preservative
- b) A variety of uses

Grant Osborne, "Due to the breadth of the metaphor, it is impossible to single out any one, and it is best to allow its multiple aspects. As such it means simply to make an impact on the world" (175)

B. The warning

1. If the salt becomes tasteless

2. With what shall it be salted?

3. It is good for nothing except to be thrown out to be trampled under foot by men

II. You are the light of the world (14-16)

A. The declaration

1. You are the light of the world

God is light (Psa. 27:1)

Messiah is Light (Isa. 42:6; 49:6; Mt. 4:16; Jn. 8:12)

Disciples are derivative lights (Acts 26:23; Eph. 5:8-9; Phil. 2:15)

2. A city set on a mountain cannot be concealed

B. The warning and command

1. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a measure

2. But on the lamp stand and it shines to all those in the house

3. Thus let your light shine before men so that they see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven

Conclusion

1. The declarations are powerful: the church is salt, the church is light.
2. We must be what we are and we cannot compromise or isolate ourselves (the two tendencies) or we will be useless in our mission.
3. Jesus expects His followers to be active in the world
4. The glory of God is the goal of our lives, as salt and light.