

## Called to Be Matthew 5:13-16

### INTRODUCTION

This coming Tuesday we will celebrate independence. **July 4 marks the day of our separation from England and our birth as a nation.** The **flag** of the United States of America is a symbol of freedom. Freedom is a powerful word; it is a driving concept. Men have fought battles, gone to war, and sacrificed greatly in order to gain freedom for themselves and for their country.

Unfortunately, today, many in our country have a much different idea as to what this freedom is, than did our founding **fathers**. Many in our society today are clueless as to what freedom is. Many think that freedom means that they are free to do whatever they want - whenever they want. **Our tragedy is that our enjoyment of freedom has resulted in even greater slavery. We have mistaken freedom for lawlessness. In the name of freedom, our nation has declared independence not only from England but from God.**

Now, how are we (followers of Jesus) to react? How now shall we live? We can shake our heads all we want, blame the younger generation, blame social media, political parties, etc or we can live like the people of God.

Let's face it...we would rather curse the darkness than be the light. Yet, Jesus Christ calls us to this very thing. Please turn in your Bibles to **Matthew 5:13-16**. In these four verses the Lord summarizes the function of believers in the world.

Reduced to one word, that function is \_\_\_\_\_.

Before we jump into our text for this morning, let me make a few observations.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Common** \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Our** \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Two** \_\_\_\_\_

**These verses remind kingdom citizens that we have two roles: one negative, and the other positive. If salt exercises the negative function of delaying decay and warns disciples of the danger of compromise and conformity, then light speaks positively of illuminating a sin-darkened world.**

**I. The salt of the earth: a \_\_\_\_\_ influence**

- Salt gives \_\_\_\_\_.
- Salt is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Salt creates \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. The light of the world: a \_\_\_\_\_ influence**

- Light \_\_\_\_\_ darkness.
- Light gives \_\_\_\_\_.
- Light \_\_\_\_\_ reality.

## **CONCLUSION**

What can we take with us this morning

### **Increasing Our Impact**

How do we increase our impact? How can we become saltier and brighter? Here are three ideas...

1. Pursue \_\_\_\_\_!

2. Live in close \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Practice \_\_\_\_\_.

**What America needs is her churches to be what God designed them to be...salt & light so that through her His message of redemption is proclaimed and displayed.**