



Different to Make a Difference Matthew 5:14-16

Matthew 5:13-16 (HCSB)

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men.

You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden.

No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

I. The *Recognizable Presence* of Every Believer

Verses 13-14 “You are the salt of the earth. ...You are the light of the world.”

Salt has five primary uses:

- Seasoning
- Preservative
- Healing
- Strengthening
- Awakening

✝ **Not one of us is excluded.**

Colossians 4:5-6 (NIV)

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

Philippians 2:14-16a (NIV)

“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.”

✝ **There is No Room for Unsavory Salt and Unseen Light.**

Verse 13-15 - "...But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men. ...A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house."

II. The *Practical Result* of making a "difference".

Verse 16 - "In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

- ✠ Those around you will see your good deeds.
- ✠ Those who see your good deeds will give God the credit.

William Barclay:

"A Christianity whose effects stop at the church door is not much use to anyone. It should be even more visible in the ordinary activities of the world. It should be visible in the way we treat a shop assistant across the counter, in the way we order a meal in a restaurant, in the way we treat our employees or serve our employer, in the way we play a game or drive a car, in the daily language we use or the literature we read. A Christian should be just as much a Christian in the factory, the workshop, the schoolroom, the hospital, the kitchen, the golf course, or the playing field as he is in church."