

# Be Salt and Light

*Matthew 5:13-16*

Sharing in Christ includes  
    sharing in His rejection (Matthew 5:10-12).  
We are called to be salt and light  
    in a world that doesn't always welcome us.

In biblical times,  
    before refrigeration and modern medicine,  
salt had a variety of vital uses.  
    It was an antiseptic and disinfectant, used for cleansing wounds  
        despite the intense pain it caused.  
    Newborns were rubbed with salt to  
        cleanse the infant and prevent infection (Ezekiel 16:4).  
    The prophet Elisha threw salt into a contaminated spring  
        to purify the water (2 Kings 2:19-22).  
    Salt was a required ingredient in temple offerings (Leviticus 2:13),  
        enhancing flavor, preventing spoilage, and  
        symbolizing enduring loyalty (note a "covenant of salt" in Numbers 18:19).

Salt flavors.  
Salt disinfects.  
Salt preserves.  
Salt heals.  
And it does so by interacting with what it treats.  
    It gives itself and  
        invests itself in  
        the water, the elements on the skin, and the food.

LIGHT.  
Light dispels darkness.  
Into a world of  
    danger,  
    fear,  
    evil, and  
    death,  
light brings  
    safety,  
    security,  
    truth, and  
    life.

Into our dark and formless world,

God's first gift was light (Genesis 1:3-4).  
He gave His only Son as  
the Light of the World (John 8:12).  
Our connection with Him is to be  
so unmistakably clear that people  
see us and  
glorify the Father for sending Christ.

The world needs Jesus Christ.  
Give them Jesus Christ.  
Be salt.  
Be light.

**Hymn: Be Salt and Light**

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