



SALT

LIGHT



“Salt & Light: Called to Stand Out”

Matthew 5:13-16

August 14, 2024

“Familiarity is the social glue that bonds people together, and we deliberately seek out the similar and the recognizable in order to feel secure. If we’re doing the same as everyone else, we must be doing it right, and finding a reflection of ourselves in those around us is a form of validation. The need for acceptance is a basic human instinct – although some value it more than others. We all want to fit in, to belong.” **Joanna Cannon, Ph.D.**, “We All Want to Fit In” *Psychology Today*

Metaphor

Matt. 6:25 *...Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?*

Phil. 2:15 *that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world*

Rom. 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Does is sound like God wants us to fit in?

Salt

Salt = NaCl

- Salt: as a preservation
 - Food
 - Goodness of God (Prov. 22:6)
- Salt: as a purifier
 - Environmental
 - **Matt. 4:19** *While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*
- Salt: as a flavor

“It should be explained by the indisputable fact that salt can be so mixed with impurities as to become useless.” **Pliny the Elder**, “Natural History” 31.82 AD 77

Light

‘City on a hill’ – (image)

- Light: as an illumination
- Dispelling Darkness

“Anyone who wants to be invisible is no longer a community that follows Him”. **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, “Discipleship” pg. 113

The Call to be Different

“The demand is to be different...by following Jesus in counter-cultural directions”. **Grant R. Osborne**, “Matthew: Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament” pg. 177

- Embracing the unique role in God’s plan

Matt. 4:19 *And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

Matt. 28:18 *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*

Matt. 6:19-20 *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

“Salt is not salt for itself; it cannot salt itself.” **Martin Luther**

