

## Reflection Questions: Matthew 5:13-16

For the message, "Salt of the Earth. Light of the World." given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on November 2, 2025

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*These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).*

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Matthew 5:13-16

13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

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### **Let's get started....**

What do you find most intriguing about what Jesus is saying in this passage?

### **QUESTIONS**

- (1) Notice that Jesus doesn't say, "Try to be salt and light," or, "If you work really hard, one day you will become salt and light." Instead, he says, "You are salt.... You are light." How does this statement shape your sense of identity and purpose as a follower of Jesus?
- (2) Salt acts both as a seasoning which brings out flavor and as a preservative against decay. How do you understand this role Jesus gives us in both seasoning this world and acting as a preservative? What might that look like?
- (3) Salt doesn't normally lose its saltiness unless it is diluted or watered down. In what ways could people who claim to follow Jesus lose their saltiness?
- (4) Jesus connects our light with good works, and then warns against hiding our light. What would be some examples of a believer hiding their light?
- (5) What do you think the difference is between good works that glorify God and good works that glorify ourselves (which Jesus later warns about in the Sermon on the Mount)?
- (6) Jesus speaks in the plural (literally, "You all are the salt of the earth.... You all are the light of the world."). How does this change the way we think about our witness, not just as isolated individuals, but as a shared community of faith?