



Parables of Jesus—Evangelism

Salt and Light

Godly Influence

In this parable the Lord summarizes the **function** of believers in the world. Reduced to one word, that function is ***influence***. When we live according to the Word of God, we will function in the world as **salt** and **light**, the character of the kingdom.

When what we do causes people to be attracted to us rather than to God, to see our human character rather than His divine character, we can be sure that what they see ***is not His light***.

A. Our Kingdom Responsibility

1. Poured out and lit up—the ONLY salt and light.
The emphatic you—the **ONLY** salt and light

Characteristics of Salt Preserving the Earth

Indirect influence
Mostly silent
Retards corruption
Mostly hidden
Seen in our life
Creates thirst
Can lose taste—no value

Characteristics of Light Lighting the World

Direct Influence
Mostly verbal
Exposes darkness
Mostly obvious
Seen in our speech
Reveals righteousness
Can be hidden—is useless

B. Salt of the Earth :13

1. Covenant of salt *Lev. 2:13*
Represents God's everlasting covenant promise.
2. Seasoned with salt *Col. 4:6*
"Let your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."

C. Light of the World :14-16

1. Rabbinical meaning—"ner olam"
Light of the world (*Heb 'ner olam'*) was a title applied to the most eminent rabbis. Here Jesus transfers the title to his own disciples and to us. We are the 'ner olam.'
2. The true Light *John 1:6-9*
 - a. "...that was [Jesus] the true Light (Gk: phos), which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
 - b. Jesus says we are the 'phos' of the world.
3. Children of the Light and our function *Eph. 5:8-14*
When we accept Christ as our savior we become children of the Light and have the same function of that light.

D. Salt and Light Example *John 8:1-12; 20*

Jesus was speaking in the Treasury—the part of the Temple where the offerings were placed (*Joh 8:20*) and where candles burned to symbolize the pillar of fire that led the people of Israel through the wilderness (*Exo 13:21-22*). In this context, Jesus called himself the Light of the World.

***Likewise, we are pillars of fire revealing
God's love, presence, protection, and power.
How bright is your flame?***

Matthew 5:13-16

:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

:14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

:15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house.

:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Ephesians 5:8-14

:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light**

:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

:10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

:12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

:13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

:14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."