

**Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5:13-16**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2015**

Compare To...

Mark 4:21; 9:50;  
Luke 8:16; 11:33; 14:34-35

**1. Salt**

Salt was used in the ancient world to flavor foods and even in small doses as a fertilizer. However, its primary use was as a preservative for meat to slow decay.

However

Most salt in the ancient world derived from salt marshes, rather than by evaporation of salt water, and contained many impurities. The actual salt, being more soluble than the impurities, could be filtered out, leaving a residue so diluted it was of little worth.

Note

Strictly speaking salt cannot lose its saltiness; sodium chloride is a stable compound.

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*.

**In what ways should Christians be like salt?**

**How can we lose these qualities?**

Is this really Jesus’ point?

Savorless salt was scattered on the soil of flat roofs. This helped to harden the soil and prevent leaks; and since the roofs served as places for public gathering, the salt would be trodden under foot.

**2. Light**

The Jews thought they were the light of the world (**Rom 2:19**). Jesus is the true light (**John 8:12; 9:5; 12:35**)

A City

Ancient towns were often built of white limestone, gleamed in the sun and could not easily be hidden. Even at night the inhabitants’ oil lamps would shed some glow over the surrounding area.

14“**You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.**

A Lamp

It is unthinkable to light a lamp and put it under a basket. This would defeat its entire purpose.

15Nor 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.

In what ways should Christians be like light? (Eph 5:8-9; Phil 2:14-15)

What types of actions would serve to hide these qualities? Why might we choose to hide? (5:10-12)

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**Compare To**

**Mark 4:21 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> And he said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand?”

**Mark 9:50 (ESV)**

<sup>50</sup> Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

**Luke 8:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> “No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light.

**Luke 11:33 (ESV)**

<sup>33</sup> “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light.

**Luke 14:34–35 (ESV)**

<sup>34</sup> “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup> It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**Jews as Light**

**Romans 2:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

**Jesus is the True Light**

**John 8:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

**John 9:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

**John 12:35 (ESV)**

<sup>35</sup> So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.

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**Reflecting the Light of Jesus**

**Ephesians 5:8–9 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

**Philippians 2:14–15 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup> 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,

**Wanting to Hide**

**Matthew 5:10–12 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.