

The Kingdom Life (2)
Salt And Light: Influence Through Love
(Matthew 5:13–16)

Believers influence through visible goodness and kindness.

Introduction: Last week Jesus described **Kingdom Character**. Now He shows how that character becomes **Kingdom Influence**. *Salt changes what it touches. Light changes the darkness around it.*

I. The power of our presence: (vv. 13a, 14a)

A. Our influence begins with our identity.

1. Jesus says, “**you are**” salt and light.
2. Influence is not reserved for professional Christians. (Mt 5:13–14; 2 Cor. 5:17; Phil. 2:15)

B. Our influence requires our distinctiveness.

1. Salt and light influence precisely because they are different from what surrounds them.
2. Christians must engage the world without becoming indistinguishable from it.

Jesus didn't leave us here merely to occupy space. He left us here to influence the space we occupy.

II. The peril of losing our distinctiveness: (v. 13b)

A. Compromise dilutes our witness.

- *The issue is not being strange or obnoxious, but living distinctly Christlike lives.*

B. Compromise damages our usefulness.

1. A Christian label is not the same thing as Christian influence.
2. Character gives credibility to our witness. (Mt. 5:13; Tit. 2:7–8; 1 Pe. 2:12)

Would the people who know me best say my faith makes me more like Jesus?

III. The placement of our light: (vv. 14b–15)

A. Light is positioned to be visible.

- Faith has personal dimensions, but biblical Christianity cannot remain completely private.

B. Light is positioned to be useful.

- A lamp shines for the benefit of everyone in the house. (Mt. 5:14–15; Jn 1:14; Phil. 2:15)

Kingdom Question: *Who is better because God put me here?*

IV. The purpose of our influence: (v. 16)

A. Our goodness should be visible.

- *We are not saved **by** good works, but we are saved **for** good works.* (Mt 5:16; Eph 2:8–10; Gal 6:10)

B. Our glory should be vertical.

1. Matthew 5 says let people see good works and glorify **God**;
2. Matthew 6 warns against doing good works so people glorify **us**. (Mt 5:16; Mt 6:1; Jn 15:8)

C. Our gospel should become audible.

- Our lives should create opportunities for our lips to name Jesus. (Col. 4:5–6; 1 Peter 3:15; Jn 8:12)

Three Questions

Is my salt still salty?

Is my light actually shining?

Who gets the glory from my life?