

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16

I. Agents of Influence

A. **Metaphors of Influence**

1. Salt
  - a) Preservative
    - (1) Curing - We retard corruption by preaching and practicing God's truth and his ways
  - b) Seasoning
    - (1) Flavoring - We are conduits of God's richness and blessings
2. Light
  - a) Illumination
    - (1) Revealing - We reveal God's truth through the preaching and proclamation of God's Word
3. Christians are not to imitate the world but influence it
  - a) By definition an influence must be different from that which it seeks to influence

B. **Missing Influence**

1. Losing influence does not mean losing salvation
2. We are unquestionably salt and light
  - a) The question is whether we are effective salt and light
3. Salt
  - a) Corrupted by other elements
  - b) Corrosive and caustic
  - c) Contaminated salt contaminates
4. Light
  - a) Dimmed by compromise
  - b) Diminished by concealing
  - c) Darkened when cut off

C. **Mission Fields for Influence**

1. "Earth" and "World"
  - a) It is the lost world, not the kingdom, that needs salt and light
  - b) The world is only going to get worse (2 Tim. 3:13; 1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:2-5)

D. **Means of Influence**

1. Body of the Sermon
  - a) The remainder of the Sermon on the Mount will help us better understand how we can be agents of influence
2. Begins with the Beatitudes

- a) Recognition of spiritual poverty debunks myth of human goodness  
**(Light)**
- b) Repenting of sinfulness rather than reveling in it **(Salt)**
- c) Responding in humility confronts the arrogance of humanity **(Light)**
- d) Reprioritizing passions to pursue righteousness rather than pleasure  
**(Salt)**
- e) Relaying God's mercy to others through testimony and forgiveness  
**(Light)**
- f) Relinquishing control of our control center for purification of thoughts,  
attitude, and actions to reflect the light (glory) of God **(Salt)**
- g) Revealing God' plan of peace to others **(Light)**

Refusing to let persecution stop us from being agents of influence keeps our light lit and our salt savory