

**DISCIPLES – KNOW WHAT TO DO IN THE WORLD!**  
**MATTHEW CH5:13-16**

**RE-CAP**

The context of the “Sermon on the Mount” is one where JESUS has demonstrated power over Satan Ch4:1-11, power over calling His disciples Ch4:18-22, and power over the demonic Ch4:24 along with power over illness and sickness Ch4:24! JESUS is about to give a powerful message over the *reality* and *availability* of “Kingdom Life” for His followers!

**ILLUSTRATION**

A torch and container of salt!

The Bible + Reading

Creation + Reading

Our witness + Reading

**YOU ARE TO GET INVOLVED IN SOCIETY! V13-16**

How does someone access the kingdom? (Ch4:17 + Mark Ch1:15)  
REPENT AND BELIEVE!

How does someone access JESUS' teaching? (Ch5:2)  
SITTING IN HIS PRESENCE!

How does someone access change? (Ch5:3-12)  
PUT INTO PRACTICE WHAT HE TEACHES!

How will disciples of JESUS impact a decaying, dark, sinful world with the Kingdom life they now possess?

**YOU ARE THE SALT! V13**

Metaphor – A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action that it does not literally apply to, for example, “he is like a lion.” JESUS now uses two “metaphor's” to explain the role of the CHRISTIAN in society, “salt and light”.

In how many different ways can salt be used in manufacturing? Somewhere between 14,000 and 15,000! It is used in the making of plastic, paper, glass, polyester, rubber, fertiliser, household bleach, soaps, detergents, and dyes. Only 6% of all salt manufactured goes into food!

Roman soldiers were said to be partly paid in salt. It is said to be from this that we get the word soldier – ‘sal dare’, meaning to give salt. From the same source we get the word salary, ‘salarium’.

Salt was a scarce and expensive commodity and its value was legendary. To sit above or below the salt identified precedence in the seating arrangements at a feast, according to one’s rank. Not to be “worth one’s salt” was a great insult. In some ancient cultures a man could divorce his wife if she failed to salt his food.

Salt can be used in numerous ways from the preservation of food, to the flavouring of food, it can also be used in the fertilizing of food! What does JESUS have in mind here? The world is decaying!

### **YOU ARE TO SHINE! V14-16**

The world is not only decaying, but it is also in sinful darkness! JESUS in the Gospel of John talks about Himself being the light of the world (John Ch9:5). Make no mistake about it, our world is broken, but beautiful. JESUS has designed a way for us to make a difference, by the grace He has shown us.

### **APPLICATION**

If JESUS' disciples are to act as a preservative in the world by conforming to the Kingdom norms, they can discharge this function only if they themselves retain their virtue (moral goodness)!

If JESUS' disciples are to act as a light in the world by conforming to the Kingdom norms, they can discharge this function only if they themselves retain their virtue (moral goodness)!

Salt and light are used in the everydayness of life, here is the key, we as Christians are to be used in the everydayness of life. It is mainly in the little things, that we can be most effective!

V13 + V14 JESUS says “You are the ....” As citizens of the Kingdom, we have a crucial role and function, set by JESUS! We are meant for “good deeds” which people will read and praise God for!

In what ways can we carry out our good deeds in the “everydayness of life”?