

## INFLUENCE

# KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

**MATT 5-7**  
**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

## Salt

Preserves.  
Purifies.  
Flavors.  
Stings.  
Heals.  
Creates thirst.  
Melts ice.

*The Reader's Digest* lists 60+ uses for salt!  
[rd.com/home/cleaning-organizing/over-60-ways-to-use-salt/](http://rd.com/home/cleaning-organizing/over-60-ways-to-use-salt/)

## Both Salt and Light ...

*Do* what they *do* because they *are* what they *are*.  
Are the products of God's design and creation.  
Accomplish much, even in small amounts.  
Are unmistakably evident when they are present.  
Are desperately needed when they are absent.  
Are givers, identified by the effect they produce.

## Salt

### Warning:

It can lose its taste, its saltiness, when mixed and thus impure.  
Then it has no effect, no influence.

**Result:** it is thrown out, becomes part of the road, and is trampled.

It cannot be made salty again. It's useless.

## Both Salt and Light ...

Influence others without being influenced by them.  
Must be in *contact* with something else to work.  
Yet must be *distinct* from that "something else."  
Are responsible to do what they are created to do.  
Can fail in what they are expected to do.

## Salt

"Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

Walk the walk, and talk the talk. Speak always graciously, tastefully, and appropriately. Add salt!

**Col 4:5-6**

## Salt

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

**Mark 9:49-50**

Salt and fire – elements in sacrifice. Lev 2:13

Salt and peace – Oriental sign of covenant-making.

## Light

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world. **Phil 2:14-15**

## Light

Gen 1:3

2 Cor 4:5-6

John 1:4-5

1 John 2:7-11

Rom 13:11-14

Eph 5:11-14

1 Thess 5:1-11

1 John 1:5-10

## Light

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

**1 Pet 2:9**

## Light

Brings life.

Destroys darkness.

Relieves fear.

Exposes dirt.

Guides to safety.

Warns of danger.

Signals for help.

## Light

"For so the Lord has commanded **us**, 'I HAVE PLACED **YOU** AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT **YOU** MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.' "

**Acts 13:47**

Who is the "you?"

First, it's Christ. Isa 42:6; 49:6

Later, it's Paul and Barnabas.

Now, it's you and I, the church!

## **Light**

### **A Guarantee:**

On a hill: cannot be hidden.

On a stand: fills the whole house.

### **A Warning:**

If hidden: cannot be seen.

Under a basket: useless.

### **A Command:**

**Matt 5:16** "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

## **How to Salt and Shine**

First, adopt the "be-attitudes" of Matt 5:3-12.

Be deliberate, intentional, purpose-driven.

Be connected with the culture, but be distinct.

Find and fill the place of greatest need.

Get out of that salt shaker! Throw off that basket!

Preserve, purify, and season something decaying.

Brighten a darkening faith, life, or relationship.

Identify and practice good deeds that are visible.

Seek only the glory of God that will result.