

February 13, 2022  
Being Salt in the World  
Matthew 5:13-16

As believers we are called many things. Some nice, some not so nice. In Matthew 5:13 Jesus calls us salt. "You are salt of the earth." There are several interesting things to notice in that declaration. First, it is just an interesting name to call someone. Is it an insult or commendation? Second, Jesus does not explain why we are salt. It conveys the idea that His audience would immediately be able to make the application to their lives as believers. Third, Jesus spends more time telling us not to lose our saltiness. How can salt not be salty? Fourth, salt has an outsized impact. Compare the size of a salt grain to the size of the earth. Much more going on in this verse than at first glance. What truth, then, is Jesus teaching in this verse? Influence. Jesus is telling believers that we have influence on the earth, we must use the influence that we have, and we must not lose the influence that we have.

Outline:

1. Believers have influence in the world.
2. Believers exert influence in the world.
  - Preservative
  - Preventative
  - Antiseptic
  - Seasoning
  - Create thirst
3. Believers are distinctive in the world.

Additional Verses:

Leviticus 2:13  
Deuteronomy 29:23  
Ezekiel 16:4

Study Questions:

1. What influence do you have in the world? In what area of your life do you have the most influence? Why do you have that influence?
2. What specific ways are you using each of the 5 salt characteristics in your sphere of influence? How is that being received?
3. How do you retain your distinctiveness in the world? What safeguards have you put in place to protect your distinctiveness?
4. What one area do you need to grow in? Why? How can you accomplish that?
5. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to God today?