

Here are some questions to consider as you study Matthew 5:13–16:

- (1) What positive qualities of salt and light do you think Jesus had in mind as he spoke these words?
- (2) Before refrigeration, salt was used to keep meat from spoiling. What then does Jesus' statement, "You are the salt of the earth" (v.13) tell us about society and the church's role in it?
- (3) What has been in the news lately that indicates that society is spoiling/rotting?
- (4) What are some practical ways we can function as salt where we live and work?
- (5) What might cause Christians to lose their saltiness?
- (6) Jesus' second statement is "You are the light of the world" (v.14). As light we prevent the spread of darkness/evil. How does the church's role as light complement its role as salt?
- (7) How can we positively promote the spread of truth in the world?
- (8) Why might we be tempted to hide our light (v.15)?
- (9) What is the result, according to Jesus, of people seeing our good deeds (v. 16)?
- (10) What examples can you think of where the work of Christians has brought people closer to God?
- (11) What relationship do you see between the Beatitudes (Matt 5:3-12) and our role as salt and light in society?
- (12) What is one way you can begin having a stronger influence as salt and light on your unbelieving family members, in your neighborhood, and in your place of employment?