

Questions

1. What does the word *influencer* mean to you? Are there ways in which you have tried to be an influencer?
2. When was the last time you chose to keep your head down and keep quiet, when you had an opportunity to speak truth against sin or speak of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
3. Why does it matter that in both phrases – You are the salt of the earth, and You are the light of the world – the word *you* is emphatic and the verb (you are) is present tense? What does that say about your identity?
4. What does the need for salt and light say about the condition of the world around us?
5. What effect of salt was most commonly understood by those listening to Jesus in the first century? In what way are you being salt? In what other ways could you be salt?
6. Who is the true light? How do believers today function as lights? Can you serve this function without talking about Jesus or His gospel? Why or why not?
7. Read Philippians 2:14-15. What is one practical way that you can stand out as a light in the darkness?
8. Commit to pray this week for:
God to grow you as salt and light in your community
God to grow GBC as salt and light in our community

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The King's Manifesto

The Sermon on the Mount

Called to Be Influencers

Matthew 5:13-16

Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor

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Matthew 5:13-16 gives believers two specific spheres of influence in our culture: We are called to prevent decay and to light the way.

John 17:14-15 is a bookend to Jesus' message in Matthew 5:10-12. In both passages, Jesus warned that His followers will face persecution and unjust suffering.

One of God's chief purposes for His kingdom is that it grows. We are called to "make disciples of all nations."

But we know that influencing people for righteousness and purity and peacemaking will also lead to persecution. Making disciples comes with a cost, which is why Jesus made it very clear that our identity in His Kingdom means we are to continuously be salt and light.

Preventing Decay

You are the salt of the earth.

Lighting the Way

You are the light of the world.