



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Some Salt, a City, and a Lamp!

Truth About God: God's design for the church is to embody His glory.

Truth For My Life: In every aspect of my life, I will demonstrate God's glory.

Lesson Text: Matthew 5:13-16; 28:16-20; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Key Passage: Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

God has never forgotten the vulnerable. Psalm 23:1 says, *"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."* God is a caring, guiding protector and His followers as dependent, vulnerable sheep. In John 10:11 Jesus declared, *"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."* Matthew 5 helps us to understand our role in an increasingly dark, difficult world. In Matthew 5:13-16, we as believers are compared to salt, a city on a hill, and a lamp—**each one revealing how we are called to influence our surroundings.**

As the salt of the earth, we are called to impact our surroundings. Salt preserves, flavors, and penetrates. Unlike a lamp's immediate brightness, salt works gradually, making an impact in its environment to bring about change. This mirrors the patient, persistent witness of a child of God, who through consistent integrity and love, gradually changes society. A small amount of salt can season an entire dish, just as a few faithful children of God can impact an entire community. Salt's influence draws out peace and reconciliation, urging believers to bring unity and healing to hurting, broken relationships.

Salt also creates thirst—a powerful, spiritual metaphor. Spiritually, believers draw out a thirst for God in others through our dedicated lives, which provokes people's curiosity or thirst for *"living water"* Jesus offers (John 4:10). By living as salt, we awaken spiritual thirst, drawing others toward the gospel's hope and pointing them to Jesus.

"A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14). Everyone from everywhere can see a bright city on a hill that stands out. **Our lives must stand out in a world of darkness.** This calls for bold, uncompromising faith and conduct. While every individual's light is valuable, it is limited, like a lone candle. However, a city represents a collective, interconnected community whose combined shimmer is far-reaching and undeniable, beckoning the wayward, tired, and thirsty travelers into the walls of safety.

"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house" (Matthew 5:15). Light's job is to shine in darkness. This is a call for disciples of Jesus to live a life of good works—to outwardly demonstrate or testify of Jesus within us—especially to those who live in darkness around us. Even if the light provokes persecution, we must let God, who is brilliant Light, shine through us. We must not hide our faith. We are called to let it shine regardless of the cost to ourselves.

The call to be salt, a city on a hill, and a lamp is a call to allow the Lord to reign as Lord in our lives. On our own, we cannot answer any of these calls. The light is not ours. The Lord is the Light, and our job is to "let" Him shine through us. This commitment to allow the Lord to use us reflects a life wholly dedicated to God's presence, where our every action—including our work, relationships, hobbies, social media, and thoughts—glorifies Him.

Evangelism can be summed up as sharing the gospel to make disciples for Jesus. This witness requires us to teach and live the truth of God's Word and invite others to know Jesus through our testimony. As witnesses, we live differently from the world's values. Our God—honoring lifestyles draws others to curiously seek the hope we have within us. The witness of separation authenticates our testimony, ensuring our lives align with our message. A separated life—marked by honesty, integrity, purity—loudly testifies to the world of Jesus' transforming power. And the witness of incarnation bridges the gap between proclamation and practice. By aligning our lives with God's will, we live as walking witnesses of His grace, drawing others to Him through our faithfulness. This personal resolve ties all aspects of witness together, fulfilling the call to glorify God in every sphere—personal, professional, and spiritual.