

**J Walking Sermon Series
Part #2 – The Witnessing Effect**

Matthew 5:13-16

1 John 2:6 – Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

Series Summary

The purpose of this series is to help each Christian establish a solid foundation in order to passionately pursue God. We will study through the Sermon on the Mount, picking up from the teachings of Christ immediately following the Beatitudes. We will focus on the basic components of walking with Jesus, like Jesus, and for Jesus. This series is needed for every new Christian and for people who want to refresh their walk with the Lord.

Big Idea – You Are a Witness for the World's Last Hope

Main Passage

Matthew 5:13-16 – ¹³"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. ¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

God's Plan and His People: The Witnessing Effect

Part #1 – Salt of the Earth: You Are the Preserving Agent (v. 13)

- **Key Point** – The key point that we discuss in this text is that as a Christian you are called to be a preserving agent for moral values and sense of godliness that the world is in desperate need of today. We see a sharp decline in moral values all across our country and that is with God's people in existence but once you take the preserving agent out of the picture then all moral value will go to the wayside and ALL mankind will be completely given over to their own lusts, desires, and depravity.
- **Colossians 4:6** – Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.
- **Leviticus 2:13** – Season all your grain offerings with salt. Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings; add salt to all your offerings.
- **1 Timothy 6:11** – But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

Part #2 – Light of the World: You Are the Revealing Agent (v. 14-15)

- **Key Point** – The key point that we discuss in this text is that as a Christian you are called to be the light of the world. Jesus was the light of the world while He dwelled physically on this earth but once He ascended into heaven, He gave us the task to be the light of the world as He works through us and lives inside of us. The light will expose ungodliness, obstacles, as well as the right path to take.
- **Psalm 119:105 (KJV)** – Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
- **Ephesians 5:8** – For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.

- **2 Corinthians 4:6** – For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Part #3 – Following His Plan Leads to His Glory (v. 16)

- **Key Point** – The key point of this text is that by following God's plan of witnessing to others through being the salt and the light, God will ultimately be given glory. This is the sum purpose of our lives. We are called to give God glory with everything we do and this cannot be done unless we are living for Him and following His plan.
- **John 15:8** – This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.
- **Ephesians 5:13** – ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Memory Verse

- **Matthew 5:16** – In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Application

J Walk Challenge – Take the J Walking Challenge through this sermon series. Begin this new year by learning to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. **Step #1** – Through this sermon series read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) at least once every two days. **Step #2** – Write down or journal what God is showing you through this study. **Step #3** – Pray about how God wants you to apply His Word that you are learning about and then apply it in your everyday life.

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