

Intro:

Main Point of Text: Jesus says the lives of the citizens of His Kingdom of Heaven should influence the world for God's glory.

Sermon Point: *Help People Taste, See, and Praise God.*

Move 1: Your presence in this world preserves it for now.

Vs. 13: you are the salt of the earth. Salt penetrates and preserves (ancient refrigeration). Pagans are rotting meat that is purified by Christians. Salt seasons, filters, and heal, slows decay. Silent, subtle. You filter the world's moral corruption and rub off on others. You slow rotting; maintain palatability.

Move 2: Your existence on this earth exposes it for the future.

Vss. 14-16a: you are the light of the world. Light infiltrates/enlightens. The dark world is exposed by Christians. Light penetrates and guides. Mt. 4:12-16 (Isa. 9:2): Jesus entered the darkest of areas and exposed and enlightened. Outward, obvious. So are you. John 3:19-21; Eph. 5:13-14; Prov. 4:18-19; 1 Thess. 5:5: *Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

Move 3: You are to be a changing agent in this world by the way you live.

You have a natural effect by what you naturally do, observable good works: vs. 16b. Point of your existence is to affect people. Jesus saved you to influence society. If you don't point to Him, you're missing the point: vs. 13, tasteless salt serves no purpose; vs. 14: a city on a hill should be seen; vs. 15: lamps put under something are effectively put out. Your purpose is to "shine": vs. 16a. Eph. 2:9-10. Expect your presence to make a change. Eph. 5:8; Mt. 13:33; Acts 26:16-19.

Move 4: The way you live should draw all people to glorify God.

Vs. 16c. Purpose of having good works: to draw people to glorify God. WSC Q&A 1. 1 Cor. 10:31. God wants you to draw more stars into your holy constellation for a greater glow of His glory. 1 Pet. 2:9-12. Your job to live a life in word and deed that calls out Ps. 34:8: *O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

Conclusion:

Phil. 2:15. Gather and glow. And then go out and shine.

Help People Taste, See, and Praise God.