



Recap from last week:

"Blessed Are..."
Matthew 5:1-12

- The Beatitudes lay out the path to spiritual rewards, including comfort, peace, and a closer relationship with God
- True blessings come from humility, mercy, and a deep desire for righteousness.

'SALT & LIGHT'

13 You are the **salt** of the earth. But if the salt loses its savor, 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.

15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they set it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

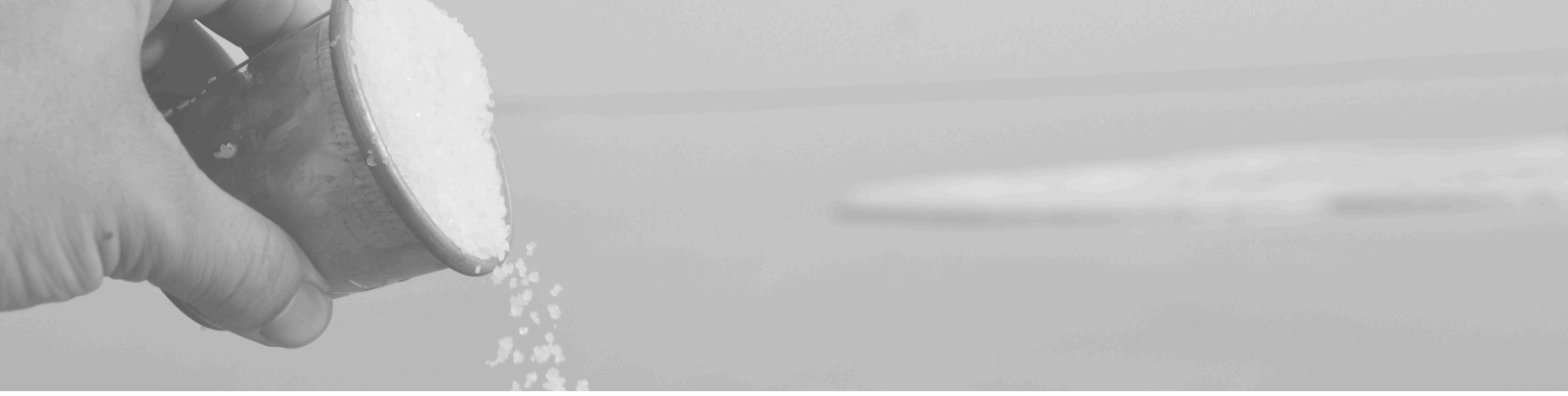
Concordance for Cross-Referencing

Use: To find other places in the Bible where you can find a particular word or subject.

Cross-references can help readers:

- Understand themes, promises, and events.
- Study the Bible on their own.
- Spark critical thinking and reflection.
- Understand the context of a specific passage by comparing it to related passages.

We've provided a few cross-references on the next page that you're welcome to glance at *after* you explore the main text!



LET'S EXPLORE MATTHEW 5:13-16

Observe:

- What stands out to you in this passage and why?
- Jesus frequently used allegories / parables (a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning).
 - Where did this take place?
 - Who was Jesus speaking to, what demographic was his audience? (hint: Matthew 5:1 & Matthew 7:28)
 - Why do you think He would choose salt & light as His examples when speaking to them?
- In biblical times, how was *light* produced?

Interpret:

- What do you believe this passage means?
- What do you believe the author intended with this message?
- Compare your interpretation with a trusted commentary.

Optional activity for *after* the above study:

Concordance Familiarization Activity:

Look up "salt" in the concordance.

How many places in the Bible does it appear?

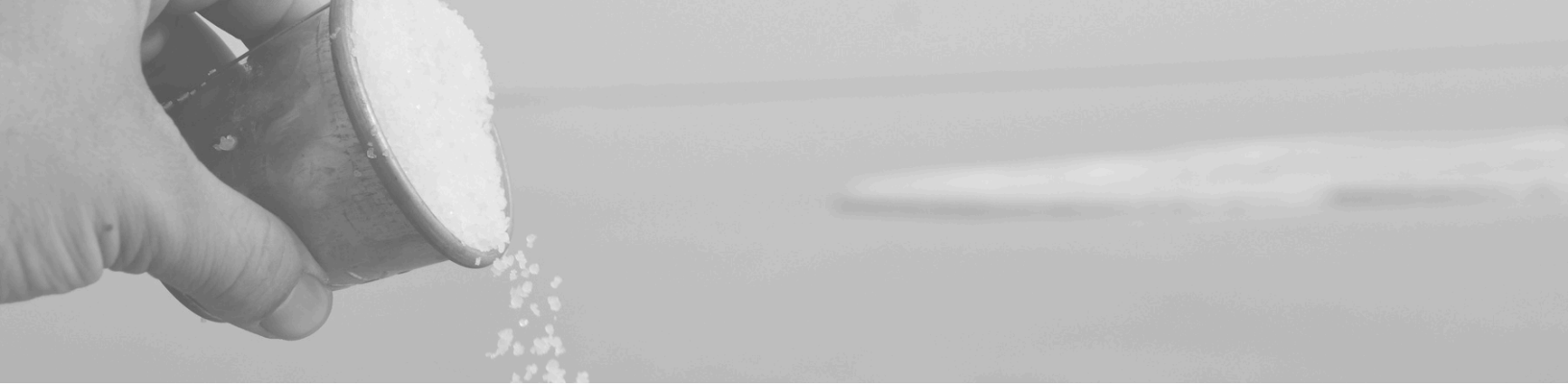
Here's a few other passages to briefly read regarding *salt & light*:

Mark 9:49-50, Colossians 4:6, & Leviticus 2:13, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Remember...

cross-referencing is an activity to give you a broader and deeper view of any passage of scripture.


**Whatever you don't finish tonight, you can study at home.*



NOW, LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus tells us that we are the "*salt of the earth*" and the "*light of the world*", meaning we have a purpose to bring out the best in the world and reflect God's goodness. Salt preserves and adds flavor—just like we're called to preserve what's good and live in a way that positively impacts others. If we lose that, it's likened to salt losing its flavor and becoming useless. Jesus also says we are like a light, meant to shine in dark places. That light isn't meant to be hidden but shared, so through our actions, kindness, generosity, hospitality, and love, we can help others see God's love and truth more clearly. It's a call to live authentically, using our gifts and influence to make the world a little better in hopes of drawing unbelievers towards Christ.

In Mark 9:49-50, Jesus talks about being "salted with fire," which suggests that life's challenges can refine and strengthen us, helping us keep our saltiness—our purpose and influence—intact. Colossians 4:6 encourages us to let our words be "seasoned with salt," meaning they should be thoughtful, encouraging, and full of grace, reflecting the love of Jesus within us, leaving a *tasteful* impact on those around us. Leviticus 2:13 required salt to accompany our offering, gift, or sacrifice unto the Lord. We are now the living sacrifice (Romans 12:1), created to be set on fire with a burning love for Jesus. Lastly, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 reminds us that the work we do—whether it's how we live, how we love, or how we serve—will be tested, and only that which is built on Christ will endure. These verses together remind us that living with purpose isn't always easy, but through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit partnered with our words, actions, and perseverance, we can live out our calling and make a lasting difference, all for the glory of God!



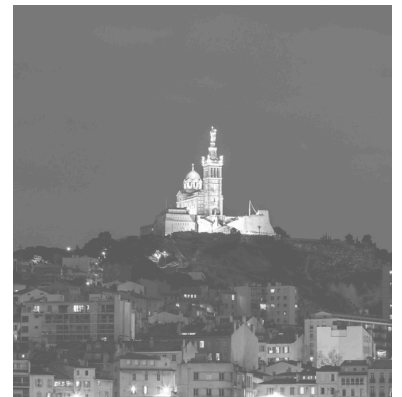
Individually, we are a light. Imagine how bright we are together....a city on a hill which can't be hidden.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- In what areas of my life do I need to seek more of God's wisdom and grace to ensure that my words and actions reflect His love and truth?
 - How can I better preserve and stand firm in my convictions while still showing compassion and mercy to those around me, especially in challenging situations?
 - Am I allowing the refiner's fire (by way of trials) and light of God's presence shine through me in a way that draws others closer to Him?
 - What steps can I take to be a more authentic and courageous witness to His work in my life?
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Closing Prayer...

Heavenly Father, thank You for calling us to be salt and light in this world. We ask for Your wisdom to guide our words and actions, so that we can be a light in the darkness and a preserving presence in our communities. Strengthen our faith, especially in times of trial, so that we can remain steadfast and reflect Your transformative power in everything we do.



Lord, let Your light shine brightly through us, not for our own recognition, but to draw others closer to You. Help us to live authentically and faithfully, demonstrating Your love and grace in our daily lives. Help us to shine together in unity, so that together we can be a city on a hill. May our actions bring glory to Your name and inspire others to seek You. In Jesus name, amen.