

**God's Points of Contact With a Lost World  
(The King's Plan)  
Matthew 5:13-16**

**Intro:** We have looked at the characteristics of a Kingdom Person: *They HAVE A KINGDOM IDENTITY, KINGDOM CHARACTER, KINGDOM PRIORITIES, AND THEY ARE PART OF A KINGDOM FAMILY, HAVE A KINGDOM WORLDVIEW AND A KINGDOM CALENDAR.* Then we looked at the **King and His People and asked the question, is he your king?** Two weeks ago we looked at **The King and His Purpose for having a kingdom** and the fact that we are to be **the Kings Widow display.**

But what does all this mean to me? How does this all work itself out in every day life? Since Jesus is the one who introduced the kingdom to us let's look to Him to see if He can tell us.

In our text today we will find the **King's Plan** for carrying out His purpose. In is first and longest sermon, the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us that we are to be His **Points of Contact.**

**[Read/Matthew 5:134-16/pray/dismiss Jr. Church]**

Everyone has heard the Sermon on the Mount; I won't say understands because I am not sure any of us truly understands what the Sermon on the Mount is all about. This sermon is the **King's Paradigm** for His kingdom; a paradigm is a model, pattern or example and we will begin to look at that next week, this week however, I want us to look at the **King's Plan** for expanding his Kingdom. If we are going to be God's Window display then surely God had a plan or design on how that display would work.

I remember every Christmas we would go down town to Wolf and Deshour to see the big Santa on the side of the building and then we would walk around and look in their display windows. They had some of the most elaborate widow displays at Christmas I have ever seen. They had trains that, and if I remember they were rather large trains that would run through all the windows. They had Satan's elf's working on the toys—they would actually move. Trees were lit and at times I believe they even had what looked like snow falling. Earlier this year Kenny Frecker Auctioned off most of those decorations and an era was lost forever.

I can tell you however, that the people who designed and set up those widow didn't just show up one day and begin to set things up. They had a plan...a plan that was designed by experts who knew what it took to capture the passer-by's attention and hopefully get them to come in and shop. If I recall correctly they would hang curtains over the windows for a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving while the windows were being set up.

No matter what kind of window display one is setting up it pays to have a plan, a design, and God is no difference. He had a plan when he called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees he had a plan, he was going to make him a great nation, he was going to bless them who blessed him and curse them who cursed him. All he had to do was go to a land that God would show him. In essence all Abraham had to do was follow God's leading and he would arrive at a land that God was going to give him. Of course following God's plan to the tea was, well a little difficult for Abraham; God had told him to **"...Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house..."** but Abraham had to take along his nephew Lot. We know the rest of the story from there all the way to the days after the Babylonian captivity every time the descendents of Abraham turned around they somehow managed to miss something in God's instructions. So God decided to place Abraham's descendents, the Israelites on the shelf for a while and see what the engrafted vine, the church, could do. That brings us to our text today.

Jesus gives us God's plan in very clear terms; we are to be God's **Points of Contact** with the lost world. If we are going to be God's window display we have to be on display and that display has to be one that is visible, inviting and connected to those we are trying to be on display for. Jesus says we are His **Points of Contact.**

**Military POC mission explained.**

Jesus said that if we are going to be his **Point of Contact with the lost world we had to be...**

I. **Salt Of The Earth** V. 13

- a. Salt, to us, is simply a condiment that enriches the flavor of food.
  - i. In Jesus' day it had many other uses
  - ii. So when He described these new recruits as "Salt of the Earth" He certainly conjured up several different thoughts in their minds
- b. Let's consider some of the thoughts that Jesus called to mind when He called them "the salt of the earth"
  - i. **Salt was a Preservative.**
    1. Before the days of refrigerators, people used salt to keep meat fresh—much like they cure ham today
      - a. Salt was absolutely essential to the people of Jesus' day, especially, in places where the fishing industry was the lifeblood of the people.
      - b. Without salt, how could the fish be preserved long enough to get it to the market?
    2. So being described as "salt," Jesus' followers knew He was challenging them to act like a preservative in the midst of a decaying world.
    3. Why so much moral rotteness in our society?
      - a. Not all can be blamed on Hollywood
      - b. We need to take some of the blame—the culture needs some more salt
      - c. Who is it that is to be the salt?
      - d. The church
      - e. We can conclude that those who are to be "*Salt of the earth*" haven't been applying ourselves in the:
        - i. Schools – in my day biggest problem was gum—today carrying guns
        - ii. Neighborhoods—tepeeing in my day; today vandalism
        - iii. Places of government—in my day, moral values; today anything goes—run for school board.
      - f. Any place that is showing signs of moral decay need more salt
        - i. Our culture needs us
        - ii. People's souls are dying in the midst of this decay and we cannot simply run away from them and keep our salt for ourselves.
      - g. The Kingdom commission, the kingdom plan is that we are to be the salt this decaying world needs
      - h. Your King expects you and I to be Salt to preserve what is left of our culture.
  - ii. **Salt was an Antiseptic**
    1. You may have discovered this function of salt simply by putting your hand in to some salty food with a small cut on your finger
      - a. Or getting salt in a cut
      - b. The term "rub salt in a wound" was talking about this antiseptic function of salt.
    2. If you have ever gotten salt in a cut you know that the first exposure to the healing, germ-fighting qualities of salt is an initial sense of pain and discomfort
      - a. We need to remember this
      - b. People will many times not understand or applaud our desires to help cleanse them from the effects of sin through the "salt" of the gospel.
      - c. They may ask us to be more tolerant and understanding of where they have been and try to excuse or justify their lifestyle.
      - d. They may accuse us of being judgmental
      - e. But we are called to disinfect a dying world, and this means we cannot compromise with sin.
      - f. We must love people enough to be honest with them, even if it hurts them...and us at first.

iii. **Salt was also a Catalyst for Fire**

1. In Palestine an outdoor oven was called “**earth**,” and one of the common fuels used for firing it was dried dung.
    - a. To make the ovens burn better, people lined the bottom with salt plates
    - b. sprinkled salt on the manure itself.
  2. Over time the resultant chemical reaction would cause the salt to lose its ability to perform this function
    - a. By then the salt was useless, and it had to be taken out and thrown away.
    - b. This is why, in Luke 14:34-35, Jesus said, **“Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out...”**
      - i. Here earth is talking about the oven
      - ii. The dunghill is talking about fuel
  3. These early followers of Jesus knew exactly what He was talking about,
    - a. He was calling them to ignite spiritual fires on the earth, to be a helpful source of blessing in people’s lives everyday.
- c. Who needs the Salt?
- i. It is easy to see that when Jesus spoke of salt it likely took on more than one meaning.
  - ii. You and I think of salt as seasoning to enhance flavor and we should do that as salt as well.
    1. Christians should be the “spice of life”
    2. Our kingdom calling is to spice up the life of those around us
    3. Our lives are to exude flavor that creates in others a hunger and thirst for the gospel
  - iii. When we lived in Colorado some years ago mom and dad were coming to visit and I wanted Sally to bake a red cake—my favorite—she got so busy getting the house ready that she didn’t have time. So I thought I would lend her a hand I baked the cake. I got out all the directions and every now and then she would ask me how it was going and made sure I was measuring every thing just right. When the cake was done it didn’t quite look right but I iced it and put it on the table. That evening after dinner we got the cake out and everyone had a piece. With my first bite I knew something was wrong; it tasted salty. It was then that I realized that I had read the recipe wrong and put in something like 6 tablespoons of salt not 6 teaspoons.

It wasn’t long before everyone very politely set their plate of half—or less—eaten cake aside and began to take. Not wanting anyone to know that I had made a mistake I continued to eat. I tried to eat all the cake... That night I was so thirsty that I didn’t think I could get enough water.

- iv. Our being salt of the earth should make other thirst to know our King

**As Jesus’ Points of Contact with the lost world we are to be...**

II. **Light of the World** Vv. 14-16

- a. Jesus said, in John 8:12 that He is **“...light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”**
- b. Think about that for a moment then listen to what Peter tells us, in 1 Peter 2:9, that we should, **“...show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light”**
- c. Here Jesus’ says we are the **“light of the World”**
- d. Jesus used two different pictures to talk about the visibility of light and our display of that light.
  - i. **A single Light on a Lampstand**
    1. This is talking about individual light, like the one next to your bed
    2. Jesus said this must be displayed not hidden
    3. We may feel shy and tempted by Satan to keep our witness quiet for whatever reason—guilt, bad timing, intellectual inferiority
      - a. Satan is good at making us feel awkward and unworthy

- b. But we should not be embarrassed to give testimony to our faith
4. We do it for our King and for the expansion of His Kingdom
- ii. **Then he uses *The Lights of the City on a Hill***
  1. This is the collective impact of having several lights gathered in one place.
    - a. If you have ever been in a candlelight service, you've seen what happens when a single candle spreads its light to hundreds of others.
    - b. Soon the entire room is ablaze with light
  2. This image speaks to our need for Christian Fellowship
    - a. When we join our light with the light of a local Bible believing Church, we become that city set on a hill.
  3. I find it completely contrary of who they claim to be when a Christian who has no desire to relate to other Christians,
    - a. Who don't feel any need for corporate worship and Bible study
    - b. Who don't want to join their light with fellow believers
    - c. With fellow citizens of the kingdom
    - d. For the purpose of lighting their communities with the gospel of the kingdom
  4. These people just don't understand the King, His purpose or His plan

**Conclusion:** Jesus didn't say we **possess** the qualities of salt and light. He said ***we are the salt of the earth! We are the Light of the Word!*** These are truth claims, not options. We are both salt and light by nature and by command. These affirmations of our kingdom calling are key to our becoming an attractive Window Display for the King and His Kingdom. God set Israel among the nations so their light would draw men to him. And now that the kingdom of God has invaded the earth through the person of Jesus Christ, the Father wants to reveal himself through us—those who have been born into the kingdom by spiritual birth. This birth happens when we acknowledge that we are sinners, and accept the atoning work of Jesus on the cross to pay the debt for our sins.

Just as our salt is intended to create a thirst for Christ in the hearts of others, our light is also to meant not bring attention to us but to "give glory" to our Father in Heaven, to draw the world to our King.

It doesn't really take all that much. A pinch of salt can go a long way, and even a tiny flashlight in a dark cave can flood it with light. Your life and witness have enormous potential. They are your **Points of contact for the kingdom to a lost and dying world.**