

The Story of Jesus: Salt and Light

(Lesson 61)

Introduction:

1. In addition to growing in grace, the Lord's followers are to grow in the knowledge of Him (2 Peter 3:18).
2. In John 5:39 Jesus revealed the proper source for information that will lead us to accomplish this growth -- the Scriptures.
3. In this lesson we are concentrating on the Lord's instructions to His followers concerning "salt and light" (Matthew 5:13-16).

Discussion:

- I. (vs.13) THE LORD'S FOLLOWERS ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH
 - A. Salt influences things that it contacts.
 1. It is used as a preservative [it prevents spoilage].
 2. It is used as a seasoning [it enhances the flavor of foods].
 3. As a preservative and seasoning, salt is certainly valuable.
 - B. (vs.13a) Jesus compared His followers to salt to show how we are to have a positive influence upon the world.
 - C. (vs.13b) Jesus emphasized the need for having the right kind of influence.
 1. Salt that has lost its saltiness is good for nothing.
 2. (See Luke 14:34-35) If we hear what Jesus said, we realize that a Christian without proper influence is of no benefit to His kingdom.
- II. (vs.14-16) THE LORD'S FOLLOWERS ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
 - A. Light is also very useful and influential.
 1. It dispels darkness.
 2. It causes plants to grow.
 3. Sunlight can change a person's disposition for the better.
 - B. Jesus also used this comparison to teach His followers to have a positive influence upon the world.
 - C. (vs.15-16) We must not hide our light -- we must let it shine before men.
 1. This is accomplished by doing good works.
 2. Our good works will lead others to glorify God.
 - D. (Luke 11:33-36) The Lord warns us to make sure that the light in us is not darkness.
 - E. God's people are also taught in Philippians 2:12-16 to "*shine as lights in the world.*"