



June 8, 2025
Josh Parrish
Matthew 5:13-16

Introduction

This week's message explores Jesus' call for His disciples to be salt and light in the world, emphasizing the importance of remaining faithful rather than just attaining faith. Josh challenges us to understand that the flourishing life is not about reaching a destination but about staying the course. Through examining the literary and historical context of Jesus' teaching on the mount, we discover that salt and light imagery warns against the subtle drift that can erode our Christian witness over time. The message emphasizes that we maintain our saltiness and light not in isolation, but in community with other believers.

Key Texts:

Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 5:1-2; Psalm 1:1; Psalm 34:8; Philippians 2:12

Icebreaker

Share about a time when you ended up somewhere completely different from where you intended to go—whether literally (wrong destination) or figuratively (life took an unexpected turn). How did you realize you were off course?

Discussion Questions

1. Josh mentioned that "drift is an inevitable part of the human experience" and shared the fishing boat story where he was mentally still under the Golden Gate Bridge but physically had drifted miles away. Where do you see this kind of drift happening in your own spiritual life or in the lives of Christians around you?
2. **Read Psalm 1:1 and Matthew 5:3-4 together.** How does understanding the Beatitudes as describing "the flourishing life" rather than material blessing

change how you approach difficult circumstances? Which beatitude feels most challenging for you to live out right now?

3. **Read Matthew 5:13-16 together as a group.** Josh explained that salt losing its saltiness uses the Greek word "moros" (moron)—describing an oxymoron like a "square circle." What are some ways Christians today might lose their "saltiness" or hide their "light" without even realizing it?
 4. Josh used the "alligator arms" football analogy to describe how Christians can become protective and hold back after getting hurt. Have you ever found yourself pulling back from full engagement in your faith because of past hurt or disappointment? How can we guard against this tendency?
 5. The main point was "The Flourishing Life Seeks Less to Attain, and More to Remain." How does this challenge the cultural narrative that life is about reaching goals and achievements? What does "remaining" look like practically in your daily life?
 6. **Read Matthew 5:16 again, noting the plural "you."** Josh emphasized that we shine our light together as a community, not individually. How has community helped you stay faithful during difficult seasons? How can our group better support each other in remaining salt and light?
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Key Takeaways

- Drift is inevitable without intentional effort to remain faithful
 - Jesus calls us to be salt and light, not just become salt and light
 - The flourishing life seeks less to attain and more to remain
 - Salt stays salty and light stays bright in community, not isolation
 - We are responsible to help each other avoid spiritual drift
 - Taking refuge in God's goodness sustains us through difficulty
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Notes