

## EASILY MAKING A DIFFERENCE

January 19, 2014 Matthew 5:13-16 by Bob Branch

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**MAIN IDEA:** You were designed to impact people and draw their attention to God... it's easier than we make it!

**God's design for the Jews: "Be a light for me."**

"I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." **Isaiah 49:6**

**This passage speaks firstly to US, then to YOU.**

### 1. We're on a MISSION FROM GOD!

**Reveal Him.** Make him known.

"we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us." **2 Corinthians 5:20** NLT

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot." **Matthew 5:13**

### 2. Be a SEASONING and PRESERVING influence on those around us.

**Salt provides flavor.** *Christians are intended to provide God's flavor to a bland world.*

"Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive." **Titus 2:9-10**

**Salt preserves from decay.** *God has placed you strategically in places to keep things from going bad!*

**Salt can lose your saltiness, become useless, foolish.**

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:14-16**

### 3. Work at leaving God's FINGERPRINTS on everything you do.

**Jesus is the true light of the world.**

"I am the light of the world. *Whoever follows me* will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." **John 8:12**

**Light is your identity.**

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light" **Ephesians 5:8**

**Light shines out to everyone.**

**Light is noticed.** Pointing not to ourselves, but to him.

**Light is good works pointed upward.**

**Light can be hidden.**

**OBJECTIVE:** *"Out of the salt shaker and into the world"*

- Change perspective on our daily routine, by seeing it as part of God's mission through you.
- Look for 2 people who are in your immediate sphere who need a special, concerted and sustained touch... with Jesus' fingerprints on it.
- Sacrifice something for them on a regular basis.

*"Small deeds, done with great love, can change the world."*