



Jesus' gospel is not just the offer of salvation, but the declaration of sovereignty. This is the clear message of his Sermon on the Mount. It is a call to find the truly blessed life by taking a narrow path most won't choose—the way of King Jesus.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Read Matthew 5:13-16. As we enter the way of King Jesus, **the King restores identity and purpose** before he ever gives us commands. Why must identity come before activity? And how do we sometimes lose our sense of purpose?

2 How do Jesus' words about being salt and light apply to his original Jewish hearers? Why did Israel need their identity restored?

3 Followers of Jesus push back darkness and decay. Salt was used as a preservative for meats. Darkness made lights necessary to do anything in a house after sundown. What does it mean to be a counter-witness to non-Christians around us? How can we be a counter-witness without becoming condescending or combative with our surrounding culture?

4 Find a few different translations or paraphrases and **read Matthew 15:13-16 again.** We're not meant to only be a reaction against the way of the world. We're meant to be a witness for something. **Followers of Jesus help others taste and see the goodness of God.**

How do we know what kind of good works Jesus is talking about? Share an example of a salt and light moment you witnessed, took part in, or received.

5 Finish praying for peace in Ukraine. Pray God gives strength to the church in Ukraine and the surrounding region to be salt and light to their neighbors in this dark time. For more ways to pray, visit nationsandgenerations.org/ukraine.

