

## Similes of Salt and Light

In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus likens His disciples to salt and light. Their mission of the disciples is, through their deeds, to influence the world to become more like the kingdom of God on earth. If they act accordingly, then they are like a city set on a mountain for their deeds will surely be noticed. However, if they do not act accordingly, then they will be as useless as flavorless salt or a covered lamp. Salt that loses its taste is not good for its intended purpose, and a covered lamp is also useless because its light is obstructed and does not serve its purpose to give light to its surroundings. By presenting it in this way, the Gospel of Matthew magnifies the importance of the disciples' mission. Nothing else is more important in the life of a disciple than to be like salt and light – to make the world become more like the kingdom of God on earth.

Here are some key interpretations of the simile of salt: (1) Just as salt was used in the ancient world to prevent meat from rotting, Christians are called to stop the spread of corruption, immorality, and spiritual decay. Christians can stop the spread of sin and evil in the world, beginning with themselves. (2) Salt is useful only if it keeps its unique qualities; in the same way, Christians must maintain their Christ-like identity and not succumb to worldly ways. (3) Salt represents purity and righteousness; Christians are called to live lives that reflect the holy standards of God. Living as a compromising and ineffective Christian is contradictory to a Christian's intended purpose in the world.

Here are some key interpretations of the simile of light: (1) A lamp's purpose is to illuminate a room, not be covered or hidden. Similarly, a Christian should make the truth of the Gospel illuminate the world, and not allow it to be stifled. (2) Jesus' disciples are called to be the "light of the world." Therefore, the life of a disciple should be centered in Christ, so that their actions would permeate the darkness and guide others to the truth of the Gospel. Christians should always perform good deeds in God's name, so as to lead people to praise God.

What are you most preoccupied with in your life? Matthew 5 tells us that living an authentic Christian life is of utmost importance. How we can live up to it should occupy our thoughts each and every day.



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Prayer List: Xie Yannong, Bian Meiyi, Chen Kun, Chen Shupeng, Ni Yufang, Lydia Chen, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Pastoral Council and Finance Council members, we will have a joint meeting today after today's Mass.

Attention children and parents: We will have Sunday School class today!

February 3 was the Feast Day of St. Blaise. We will have the blessing of throats after the 10:30am Mass today.



We will celebrate Chinese New Year on Feb. 15, 2026 in lieu of 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We will hold our monthly potluck on that day. If you are celebrating your birthday in February, we have ordered a cake for you.

We need volunteers to decorate the church after Mass today in order to prepare for

Chinese New Year.

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal for 2026 has begun. Our goal is \$3,500. For your convenience, you can make your donations through our church. If you wish to donate through our church, please make sure your check is payable to HNOJ and write AAA in the memo. Please use the AAA envelopes provided. Thank you for your support.

The 10th year anniversary of the dedication of our church will be on November 19, 2027. We would like all church members to have their picture taken for the 10th year anniversary commemorative parish book. Please sign up with Tommy Puk.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		<b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	<b>Anointing of the Sick</b>	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		