

**Leaving a Legacy of Love**  
**Part 1: A Loving Influence**  
**Matthew 5:13-16**

**1. Why does Jesus call us to be “salt” and “light”?**

**Answer:** Because Jesus is calling us to be **agents** of **change**. Both salt and light change their environments for the better.

- Salt penetrates, preserves, and improves **flavor**.
- Light dispels darkness and enables people to live up to their **fullest potential** at work or home.

**2. How can I influence my environment as “salt” and “light”?**

- a) Continually work on your **transformation** into the loving image of Christ because you cannot give what you do not have.

<sup>13</sup>“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.”  
Matt 5:13

- b) See yourself as a **victor** in your environment instead of a **victim** of your environment. Expect Jesus to shine through your words and deeds as you influence others towards Him.

<sup>14</sup>“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.” Matt. 5:14-16

**The bottom line:** you are responsible for influencing the condition of your home, office, neighborhood, church, etc. **Embrace** your mission and **enjoy** the journey with Him!

**In your journal this week:**

1. Rate the current condition of your different environments (home, office, church, etc.) on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being a place of perfect love. For each environment, write down the words or actions of love you can offer immediately to influence it towards a 10?
2. Do you expend more energy playing the role of a victim of your environment or a victor within your environment? In other words, do you find yourself mostly complaining about the way others treat you than you do thinking about how you can show sacrificial, Christ-like love to others? Write a prayer expressing specific ways the Lord can strengthen you to be His agent of change.