

State of the Vision sermon: Where Are We and Where Are We Going?
Delivered by **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on May 19, 2019

Bible text explored: Matthew 5:13–16

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What kind of people was Jesus including in the “you” of vv. 13 & 14?
(See *Matt. 5:1-12*.)

How had they responded to his proclamation of the Kingdom?

2. What from their Scriptures would sound familiar about the blessings that Jesus described in the words we now call the Beatitudes?
(See, for example, *Isaiah 61:1-3*.)

What is the Beatitudes’ main theme? (Compare *Matt. 5:3* and *10*.)

What are the conditions for entrance into the kingdom? (See *Matt. 5: 3-6*.)

What are the characteristics of those in the kingdom? (See *Matt. 5:7-10*.)

Are these merely members of a holy club or agents of God’s kingdom, representing Christ and his gospel to the world?

3. While salt (v. 13) adds flavor, in Jesus’ day its primary use was as a preservative. How can we—as those *in*, but not *of*, the world—become its moral preservative?

What is the danger to salt’s potency when it is mixed with other ingredients?

How is our church moving to give our community a taste of this saltiness?

4. Our increasingly secular society is also growing religiously more diverse, How can the light (vv. 14-16) of a healthy church whose members love each other shine in our community?

What steps are we launching to penetrate our neighborhoods with this light?

How are we planning to help the gospel shine in global areas of darkness?