**Elder Berry Ross March 19, 2023**

**The Symbols Of True Disciples**

Matthew 5:13-16

**Key Truth:** Jesus takes discipleship very seriously. There is no greater time than now, for disciples to be the salt and light of the earth.

**The Various Uses For Salt:**

1. Salt was used as means for currency.

2. Salt is important in human diets.

3. Salt was used as a preservative.

**The Various Uses For Light.:**

1. Light penetrates darkness.

2. Light can provide direction.

3. Light makes things visible.

**What We Learn:**

1. As salt, we are called to influence society with purity.

 **Colossians 4:5-6**

2. We are called to be a preserving agent to a decaying

 world.

3. Beware of imitation salt. **Matthew 5:13**

4. As light, disciples are called to radiate the character of

 Jesus Christ to the world.

 A. We should illuminate the world with joy, honesty,

 acceptance, and love. **Ephesians 5:7-8**

 B. We are lights pointing towards God glory with our

 service. **Matthew 5:16**

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Reflect and pray for strength from Christ to be the salt and light of the world, so our lives honestly display God’s love and mercy to the world.

**Food For Thought:**

What are some of your favorite foods that you simply cannot eat without salt? How do those foods taste without salt?

Have you ever had to go on a low sodium diet? If so, how significant of a shift was it for you? Did you grow accustomed to it?

Read the following passages about light in Scripture:

Genesis 1:3-4; Exodus 10:23; Psalm 27:1; John 1:1-5; John 8:12; and 1 John 1:5-6.

What does light signify in each of these passages?

What do these verses teach us about our function as lights in the world?

In John 8:12; If Jesus is the Light of the world, what does that imply about the world? What does it imply about you?

As a believer, you are a witness to who God is. What role do your imperfections and ungodly attitudes play in helping others see God?