

Be Authentic!

(setting up Matthew 5:13-16)

Have a surface to set a bag of popcorn disguised in a paper sack and several sizes of flashlights)

Voice 1: What are you doing?

Voice 2: I'm making a delicious salty trail mix for all these people. *(Shakes sack)*

Voice 1: Oh, I don't think it will work. Everyone has different tastes.

Voice 2: *(Shrugs) Whatever!* And—I have all these flashlights *(starts flashing them)* so that these people will be able to see whenever they need light.

Voice 1: What if the batteries fail? Then where will they be? Look! Let's hear what the scripture says:
(reads Matthew 5: 13-16)

¹³ "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. ¹⁴ "You ARE the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Voice 2: Maybe I don't need this trail mix or these flashlights!

Voice 1: You're right. People are counting on us to be authentic. We ARE the salt and the light. They are counting on us to be God's people who show them God's way—no gimmicks needed!

Voice 2: *(thoughtfully)* Be authentic! *(starts to walk off—turns again and says it again)* Be authentic!

