

You Are The Salt of the Earth

Matt 5:13-16

Memory Verse: *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Matt 5:13*

Introduction: Light and salt are two things that we value that seem so insignificant but are part of our survival. We either complain because of too much or we want more of these. Salt is hard to see, yet too little of it and you can taste the difference and too much of it can ruin your food. Light is visible and is needed during the night or when it is dark. Yet too much of it is blinding yet too little of it can make us feel unsafe. Jesus said we are the salt and the light of the world. When the world sees God's character in us they can be both preserved and seasoned.

Background: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus called His followers to the highest standards of conduct. He had challenged us to "turn the other cheek" when we are struck on the right one. He commanded us to love our enemies, to forgive people who do us wrong, and to act with the pure motives. He warned us of the wide road that leads to destruction and invited us to take the narrow road that leads to life. In these verses of our lesson, He calls us, His disciples, to be a Godly influence in the World.

I. This text is part of the greatest sermon ever preached, "The Sermon on the Mount."

A. *This sermon was preached by the Lord Himself.*

1. The theme was how Kingdom citizens are to live.
2. Jesus directed His disciples to affect the world in a positive way by their walk.

B. *Christians are of infinite value just like salt.*

1. Salt was a necessity of life in ancient times and thus great value was attached to it.
2. Salt was so important that it was sometimes used for money.
 - a. Roman soldiers were sometimes paid with salt.
 - b. "Salary" comes from the Latin word "salarium," the payments to the soldiers with salt.
3. We still use the phrase that someone either is, or is not, "worth their salt."

II. Like salt, Christians act as a preservative.

A. *Salt was important for survival, because it was used to preserve meat.*

1. Without refrigeration, salt was important in their ability to preserve their food.
2. The salt was rubbed into the meat before it was stored.
3. Salt would arrest or hinder the process of decay.

B. *Christians are given the task of arresting the decay of our world.*

1. Christianity has in fact had a profound positive effect on the world.
2. Christianity has attached a new value to human life.

C. *Prior to Christianity infanticide, and abandonment of children was a common practice.*

1. Hospitals as we now know them began through influence of Christianity.

2. The Red Cross was started by an evangelical Christian.

D. *Christian's continue to have a positive benefit on our world.*

1. They keep the society's corruption at bay by opposing moral decay by their lives and words

2. There should be a moral and ethical difference in how we live and how the world lives.

E. *We cannot lose the qualities of Christ-likeness that distinguish us from the world.*

1. If we are like the society around us, we no longer have a positive impact.

2. We become a hindrance instead of a preservative.

III. Like salt, Christians Are to Promote Thirst.

A. *Christians are to make Christ attractive and desirable.*

1. We are to make the Christian life and faith beautiful to those in the outside world.

2. Unbelievers should see evidence of the difference that Jesus Christ makes in our lives.

B. *The world should see us hungering and thirsting after righteousness.*

1. They should be able to see Christ in every aspect of our lives.

2. That is why we must do everything as unto the Lord.

IV. However, like salt, Christians Can Lose Their Usefulness. (v. 13b)

A. *Jesus says salt is useless if it loses its flavor.*

1. Then it is good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

2. When the salt was leached out it still looked like salt, but it lost its taste.

B. *The flavor can be leached out of Christians by living by the world's values.*

1. The Christian either does good or they are making an impact for evil and the enemy.

2. Our walk, our attitudes, our conversation, our lifestyle either save or destroy.

3. We are continuously producing either positive or negative results in society.

C. *Our lives either count for God or against Him.*

1. There simply is no middle ground.

2. We are either for Him or against Him.

V. Like Salt, We Must Have Contact To Have An Influence!

A. *We are to be a preserving force in the world wherever God has placed us.*

1. Salt does no good just sitting some place other than being sprinkled on food.

2. To be effective, the salt must be rubbed into the meat.

B. *In the same way, Christians are to allow God to use them wherever he has placed them.*

1. The church cannot become a salt warehouse,

2. We must make contact to have an effect.

C. *We are to go into all the world and teach...*

1. We do not have to be spectacular, sensational or successful (by the world's standards)

2. To be salt, we just have to affect our little corner of the world.