

# Salt of the Earth

## Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the truths that are associated with the idea that Jesus taught when he compared Christians to SALT.
2. Mt. 5:13 NKJV **"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.**
3. This is in the section called the similitudes - 13-16
  - a. Jesus had just given the beatitudes v. 3-12
  - b. Now he uses some similitudes or comparisons for object lessons SALT & \* LIGHT
  - c. We as Christians are like Salt and Light
4. Salt - found in 41 times in 35 verses in the Bible
  - a. Composed of 2 poisonous substances: sodium [39%] & Chloride [61%]
  - b. Either of these taken individually will kill you.
  - c. But together they form a substance that is essential to life
  - d. A few years ago Morton Salt Company listed 1400 uses for salt.
  - e. Without salt human life cannot be sustained. Sodium is involved in muscle contractions, including the heartbeat. Chloride plays an important role in digestion. We must have salt in order to live.
5. Other verses - Mk. 9:50 Lk. 14:34
  - a. Mk. 9:50 **"Salt [is] good: but if the salt have lost his saltiness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another."**
  - b. Lk. 14:34 **"Salt [is] good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?"**
6. Christians are the Salt of the Earth -- We must live on the earth among the people of the world.

## Discussion

### **I. THE SALT OF THE EARTH**

#### A. PRESERVES

1. Meats are often salted to preserve them == Pork, fish and other meats kept by salting -- salt preserves - country ham
2. Christians are to be the salt of the earth by exerting a cleansing and preserving influence on life around us. We are a preservative for the World.
  - a. Godly influence of Christians keeps the world from being destroyed -- Sodom and Gomorrah - [Gen. 18 & 19] - They could not even find ten godly people so the cities were destroyed
  - b. Pro. 14:34 "**Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.**"
  - c. When Christianity is not found in a country the living conditions for the masses are horrible:
    - (1) A few rich masters rule with an iron hand
    - (2) Liberties are crushed
    - (3) Little value is placed on human life
    - (4) Living conditions are terrible
  - d. Our country would be an awful place to live if every influence of Christianity should be removed!
3. We have an influence on people about us!
  - a. There are some people around whom it is easy to do good.
  - b. But there are other people around whom it is easy to do bad things. These kind of people have a bad influence.

- c. What type of influence do you have on others?
- (1) Do people know that you are doing good?
  - (2) Do they know that you will not approve of evil?
  - (3) Will they feel free to tell dirty stories, use filthy language and talk in a disgraceful way ?
  - (4) There was once a young lady who died and on her tombstone the family had this epitaph written: "It was easier to be good when she was around."
- d. If you are the salt of the earth your presence will influence others to do good and by doing this you are cleansing and preserving like salt.

## B. PURIFIES

1. In olden times salt was often used to purify
2. Elisha used salt to purify the waters of the city of Jericho - II Kings 2:19-22
3. Christians by their influence must promote purity
4. Often times the presence of a Christian in the crowd will change the conversation. Obscene language will many times cease because of our influence and presence.
5. This is a good influence because Paul tells us to think about the right things --  
 PHIL 4:8 **"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."**
6. Some who profess to be Christians see how close they can live like the worldly people around them:
  - a. Use the same vocabulary of filthy and suggestive words
  - b. Wear the same suggestive "sexy" clothing
  - c. Go to the same filthy movies

7. These are not the salt of the earth. Because Salt is to have a purifying effect.  
We can only do this if we are separate from the world and live in such a way that we can have a good influence on others.
8. If we can influence the thinking of others it will help purify.

C. **SALT CREATES THIRST**

1. Foods which are high in salt create thirst. Country Ham, Salty popcorn -- makes us want to drink
2. A Christian, as the salt of the earth, also creates thirst.
3. Our influence should cause others to "**..hunger and thirst after righteousness...**"  
[Mt.5:6]
4. Many are Christians today because of the godly influence of a parent, companion, child, or friend.
5. Notice what Peter told the wives -- I Pet. 3:1-2 "**Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation [manner of life] of the wives: 2. While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.**"
6. Through a proper influence we can create a thirst in others that will help us to lead them to Christ.
  - a. One of the most effective ways to bring men unto Christ is the righteous lives of faithful Christians.
  - b. A person notices that the life of his friend is different from his own. It is happy, vigorous, and fulfilling.
  - c. He wants to know the secret to this type of life so he can live this way himself.
  - d. He eventually discovers that the difference is Christ.

7. Most converts are won by the example of a Christian neighbor, co-worker or classmate. They are taught the truth and obey the gospel. But the interest in the truth was started by the good example of others which created a thirst for righteousness.
8. Ye are the salt of the earth because you create this thirst in the hearts of others.

#### D. ENHANCE FLAVOR

1. Many foods are bland and tasteless without salt
  - a. Salt enhances the natural flavor of food
  - b. One little boy defined salt like this: "Salt is the stuff that makes things taste bad when it is left out."
  - c. JOB 6:6 **"Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there any taste in the white of an egg?"**
  - d. Without salt food tastes flat.
2. Christians can sweeten the burdens of life and bring flavor to the disappointments of life
  - a. GAL 6:2 **"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."**
  - b. 2 Cor. 1:3-5 **"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4. Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. 5. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ."**
  - c. By our influence we can enhance the flavor of life for everyone around us.

## **II. SALT CAN BECOME USELESS**

- A. Salt can lose its saltiness
1. Dirty, white, powdery substance of impurities.
    - a. No refineries in those days.
    - b. Salt contained lime, iron & other impurities.
  2. Salt quality could easily be dissolved away leaving heap of impurities.
    - a. Then it was useless, even destructive.
    - b. Where it was thrown, fertile soil became infertile.
    - c. For this reason it was thrown in the streets to prevent vegetation from growing & to provide paths for travel.
  3. Salt that is contaminated by foreign substances loses its quality of saltiness.  
Deprived of its power.
- B. A Christian can lose his influence
1. If he is contaminated by exposure to the world then he loses his influence
  2. 1 Cor. 15:33 ASV **"Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals."**
  3. When we permit the world to enter our lives then we lose our effectiveness.
  4. 1 Jn. 2:15-17
  5. We do not win sinners by partaking of their sins. They lose respect for us and do not have an interest in Righteousness because of what they see in us. They look at us as hypocrites, and they are right.
  6. We cannot play around with sin without being contaminated by it.
  7. ROM 12:2 **"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."**

C. "It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men."

1. Salt is cast out
  - a. It is to be trodden under foot of men
  - b. It is useless for salt purposes
2. We are useless if we loose our influence
  - a. Hypocrites are despised by the world also
  - b. We have no respect from faithful Christians
  - c. God is not pleased with our lives
3. We are of all men most miserable
4. A christian who has lost his influence for good is worthless just like the salt that has lost his saltiness.
5. Lk. 14:34 **"Salt [is] good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?"**

### **Conclusion**

1. Jesus compares us to SALT
2. We have an influence:
  - a. Preserve
  - b. Purify
  - c. Create thirst
  - d. Enhance flavor
3. The danger is that we can loose our influence if we allow ourselves to be contaminated by the worldly things around us.
4. Then we are useless.
5. Watch your influence and keep it pure.
6. Ye are the salt of the Earth.

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