Sermon on the Mount, part 9

“You are the salt of the earth”

Matthew 5:13

13 “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.

INTRODUCTION

• If seasoning has no flavor it has no value.
• If Christians make no effort to affect the world around them, they are of little value to God.
• If we are too much like the world, we are worthless
• Christians are called by Jesus to be influencers and to add value to the world…to affect others in a positive and powerful manner just as salt brings out the best flavor in food!

The two most influential people in my young adult life were Andy and Wand Andrews – Connie’s sister and brother in law.

• They never preached at me or to me, but they certainly influenced me in multiple ways –
  ➢ Their joy was contagious
➢ Their love was overwhelming
➢ Their lifestyle was attractive
➢ Their commitment was inspiring
➢ Their service was stellar
➢ Their witness was winsome

• They were the salt of the earth and they influenced my life and made me want more of what they had.

Then there was a community of salty Christians who influenced our lives in a similar fashion…

• Their worship was vibrant and exciting
• Their sense of community was authentic
• Their prayers were powerful
• Their love was genuine
• Their hospitality was engaging
• Their faith was contagious
• And they wanted everyone to know Jesus Christ and the presence and power of the Spirit.
• They influenced and shaped our lives forever
• They were the salt of the earth!
• And so, we have sought to be the salt of the earth!
Make no mistake about it; Jesus calls us to be the salt of the earth!

Notice – Jesus does not say, “Try to be the salt of the earth!”

On the contrary, Jesus declares who and what we are…

“You are the salt of the earth!”

Followers of Jesus who are:

- Poor in Spirit
- Mourners for their lost innocence
- Meek
- Hunger and thirst for righteousness
- Merciful
- Pure in heart – single minded; unmixed
- Peacemakers
- Persecuted for Jesus name sake…

• “Are the salt of the earth.”

Now, let’s look deeper at Jesus’ analogy – Salt
60 Uses for table salt

Jesus knew, as did everyone, that salt was an extremely useful compound with multiple applications!

1. Salt is an antiseptic

- Anti = against or opposed to
- Septic = bacteria
- Salt is an antiseptic – salt opposes the growth of disease, bacteria, and infection.
- Jesus is saying that the anointing of the Holy Spirit in a believers life is healing and opposes corruption and the disease of sin.
- The world, without Christ is diseased, decaying, horrific, and corrupt and foul.
- This goes to the core of the Bible doctrine of man, Sin, and original sin…only a redeemer could save a corrupt and wicked generation!
- In the ancient world – before refrigeration, take away salt and food rots overnight.
- Our anointing is the only hope for a corrupt and lost people going to hell.
• But for the presence of the Spirit, many would have perished long ago!
  • “YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH!”

2. Salt makes one thirsty

• The world is uninterested in the gospel, but salt makes one thirsty.
• Because we are the salt of the earth, our presence should make people thirsty for the living water!
• An Arab kept watching Arthur Blessit – taking not of the shining smile on his face as Arthur sipped his Coca-Cola in a Holiday Inn in Amman, Jordan. The sheik said to Arthur, “I want what you’ve got!”
• The result was that the Arab was converted to Christ and Arthur was given an open door to many Muslims in that area within a few hours.
• “YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH!” – Your presence makes people thirsty for more!

3. Salt is a preservative

• Jesus is saying that the presence of Godly men and women helps preserve the sanity and sanctity of life.
• John Wesley’s conversion in 1730 and subsequent revival movement, led to a great spiritual awakening in the 18th century England/America.

• Secular historians now concede that the Wesley revival in England is the single most contributing factor that kept the Nation from total collapse and upheaval.

• “YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH!” and your presence preserves the sanity and sanctity and godliness and hope in your homes, family and schools.

4. Salt is seasoning

• Salt makes things taste better!
• The true Christian in today’s world makes life more palatable!
• Salt makes sour things less sour!
• The salt of the earth are those people who seek to be like Jesus –
  Who have a burden for the lost
  Who care for hurting and
  Who make people believe in God again.

• The salt of the earth bring seasoning to every situation – they spice it up with
- Hope
- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Faith
- Mercy and compassion

“You are the salt of the earth!”

Slide 8

5. Finally – salt is painful to an open wound!

- The person who lives the unhindered grace filled life makes the world a better place – yes, but also brings the sting of conviction!

- William Wilberforce spoke out against slavery and was hated by many for a long time!

- Martin Luther King, “Stung the conscience of the nation” that remained full of hatred, prejudice, in-equality, as he called for the dawning of a new day where all God’s children could truly be free regardless of the color of their skin…He was hated for being a painful reminder that all people were not really free!

- In a day when people uphold”
  - The sanctity of marriage
Oppose abortion
Speak out against racial and gender injustice
Fight pornography and sex trafficking
Who work for mercy and justice for all
The message will be opposed and even persecuted

The message of justice is like an open wound and when truth is applied, it stings and burns until it is healed!

“YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH”

WARNING!

AND WHEN WE ARE NO LONGER SALTY – WE ARE USELESS TO God’s purpose and kingdom

Our task and our calling is to maintain our saltiness and be fully committed to influence the world for Jesus Christ!

Matthew 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth” is a word about Christians anointing in and uncaring, cold, and godless world!

We are what Jesus says we are...the salt of the earth

The question we are confronted with today is:
“Are you worth your salt?”

Are you being the salt of the earth?

Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to use you to influence the people around you?

Prayer