



asbury at HOME

LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF FAITH

Why Salt?

Dear Friends,

Imagine hearing Jesus teach for the very first time. You've never read Sermon on the Mount. You've never heard of the Beatitudes. You don't know what He's about to say next. Then he looks at the crowd and chooses a single object to describe the people who follow Him. What do you think it would be? A mighty oak? A lion? A flowing river? Bread?

Of all the possibilities, how many of us would have guessed salt? Yet that is exactly what God chose. "You are the salt of the earth." In Matthew 5:13, he didn't say "You should become the salt of the earth." Or "Try harder to be salt!" He simply said, "You are." Why would He do that? Why would Jesus choose something so small, so common, and so easily overlooked? The deeper that I searched, I realized this wasn't just a random illustration.

Long before Jesus spoke those words on the hillside, God had already been weaving salt through the story of Scripture. The first clue was surprising, in Leviticus, God gave very specific instructions for the offerings brought to the altar. Some details seem unusual to us today, but one command appears repeatedly.



"Season all your grain offerings with salt. Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings." Leviticus 2:13.

Every offering, not some, but every offering! Why? Because in the ancient world, salt represented something lasting. It preserved, it endured, it became a picture of covenant faithfulness – a reminder that God's promises do not spoil or fade with time. Then years later, Scripture actually uses the phrase ... "A covenant of salt." I

had read those words before without ever asking why. Maybe because we think of salt as nothing more than something that sits on our kitchen tables. The people of Jesus' day saw something much more, they saw preservation, purity, faithfulness, and things worth protecting.

There is another interesting story. A town's water had become polluted, and nothing would grow. The people came to the prophet Elijah asking for help. God told Elisha to throw salt into the spring. Not because the salt itself possessed some mysterious power, but because God chose an ordinary object to demonstrate an extraordinary truth. The water was healed.

And again, I ask myself why salt? Perhaps, it is because salt has always been associated with preserving life rather than allowing decay to win. Salt almost never draws attention to itself. Think about it! After a wonderful meal, we compliment the cook. We rarely compliment the salt. Its purpose isn't to be noticed; its purpose is to bring out the best in everything around it. What a beautiful picture of the Christian life.

Our calling has never been to make ourselves the center of attention. Instead, we quietly bring out the goodness, hope, and beauty that point others toward Christ.

And here is another characteristic to think about: Do our lives leave people thirsty for something more? After spending time with us, do people become more curious about the peace we carry? The kindness we offer? The hope we refuse to surrender? Could the greatest compliment we could receive as a Christian be...

"Being around you makes me want to know Jesus"?

The more I follow the thread of salt through Scripture, the more I realize Jesus wasn't just choosing random items, he was choosing a symbol that had been telling God's story for centuries. A symbol of covenant, preservation, of healing, of faithfulness, and of lives that make others thirsty for God.

The next time you reach for the saltshaker, pause for just a moment. Hold a few grains in your hand. They are small enough to be overlooked. Common enough to ignore. Yet Jesus looked at ordinary people – people just like you and me – and said,

"You are the salt of the earth."

Perhaps that is another great reminder that God has always delighted in using ordinary things to reveal extraordinary truth.

We would love to hear from you. If this message met you in a meaningful way, or if you have been reflecting, praying or simply sitting with these words, we invite you to reach out.

You can call the church office # (316) 942-1491 or send me an email anytime – kate.green@asburychurch.org. Your thoughts and experiences are a gift to us.

With Love, Kate Green, the Asbury Staff, and your Asbury Church Family

FOLLOW THE THREAD

Salt Through the Story of Scripture

A beautiful thing about Scripture is that God often introduces an idea long before He explains it. Follow the thread of salt through Genesis to Revelation and how one ordinary substance carries an extraordinary story!

EVERY OFFERING SEASONED WITH SALT Leviticus 2:13

"Season your grain offering with salt. Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings..."

Salt becomes the picture of God's permanence. God's promises are not temporary or uncertain. What He establishes He keeps.

Takeaway: God's promises endure.

AN EVERLASTING COVENANT Numbers 18:19

"...it is an everlasting covenant of salt before the Lord ..."

Salt becomes a symbol of permanence. God's promises aren't temporary or fragile. What He promises He keeps.

Takeaway: God's promises endure.

GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID 2 Chronicles 13:5

"...The Lord, the God of Israel, gave the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by a covenant of salt."

Again, salt is connected with something lasting and unbreakable.

Takeaway: God's covenant can be trusted.

SALT & HEALING 2 Kings 2:19-22

The people of Jericho came to Elisha because their spring had become polluted and the land unproductive. God instructed Elisha to throw salt into the spring.

"This is what the Lord says: "I have healed this water. Never again will it cause death or make the land unproductive." 2 Kings 2:21

The salt itself held no power. God chose something ordinary to reveal His extraordinary power to restore.

Takeaway: God often works through ordinary things.

SALT GIVES FLAVOR Job 6:6

“Is tasteless food eaten without salt?”

Even in Job’s suffering, salt represents something that brings richness and goodness to everyday life.

Takeaway: Small things can make a great difference.

A SOLEMN REMINDER Psalm 107:33-34

The psalmist describes fruitful land becoming salty because of human wickedness. Even familiar symbols can become warnings when people turn away from God.

Takeaway: Our choices shape the fullness of our lives.

A NEWBORN CHILD Ezekiel 16:4

Ezekiel mentions the ancient practice of rubbing newborn infants with salt as part of their care after birth.

To the original readers, salt was associated with protection, cleansing, and care.

Takeaway: God sees and cares for us from the very beginning.

THE THREAD COMES INTO FOCUS Matthew 5:13

“You are the salt of the earth.”

Jesus was not introducing a brand new idea.

He was gathering centuries of meaning into one unforgettable sentence.

Takeaway: We are called to preserve what is good and point others towards Christ.

HAVE SALT AMONG YOURSELVES Mark 9:50

“Salt is good ... Have salt among yourselves and be at peace with each other.”

Jesus connects salt with faithful living and relationships marked by peace.

Takeaway: Faithfulness is seen in the way we live with one another.

SALT THAT LOSES ITS PURPOSE Luke 14:34-35

Jesus warns that salt which has lost its usefulness is no longer fulfilling the purpose for which it is created.

Takeaway: We are called to remain faithful to the purpose God has given us.

WORDS SEASONED WITH SALT Colossians 4:6

“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt ...”

The thread that began at the altar now reaches our everyday conversations.

The evidence of Christ is not only found in worship – it is heard in the words we choose each day.

Takeaway: Let your words leave a taste of grace.

A final thought: Salt begins at the altar; it becomes a picture of a covenant. Then healing, then wisdom, then discipleship, then gracious speech. By the time Jesus calls us “the salt of the earth,” Scripture has already spent centuries teaching us what salt means.

The Bible isn’t a collection of disconnected stories. It is one beautiful story, and every thread leads back to Christ.