

THE SPICE OF LIFE

OBJECTIVE: To understand what it means when Jesus says, “**You are the salt of the earth.**”

KEY VERSES: Matthew 5:13

Matthew 5:13 NKJV

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

We are looking specifically at Matthew chapter 5 verse 13, but in Matthew 5, 6, and 7 we have what is known as the Sermon on the Mount. Here Jesus is preaching, and this is the longest recorded sermon of Jesus. And he is preaching to disciples:

Matthew 5:1-2

*1. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated **His disciples** came to Him, 2. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:
(Emphasis added)*

- I. In Bible times, salt was very valuable.
 - a. It was like money. They used it trading, exchanging, in business. Roman soldiers were often paid with salt.

In fact, our word salary comes from the Latin word *salarium*, which comes from the Latin word for salt. That's why we have the saying today, "He's not worth his salt"....meaning he's not worth his pay.

- b. Christians, like salt, are very valuable
 - a. God sent His one and only Son to die for us.
 - b. While we were yet sinners, Christ took every ridicule, every mockery, patiently walked among those who didn't even know He was their creator. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8
 - c. He took the beating, the crown of thorns, and every nail as they put Him on the cross. And He did it willingly, for you and me. We are valuable.
 - 1. Isaiah 43:1
 - 2. 1 John 4:10
 - 3. Matthew 10:29-31

- II. Salt has many uses.
 - a. Salt has over 14,000 uses.
 - b. Christians, like salt, are gifted for use in many ways.
 - 1. Ephesians 2:10
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 12:7
 - 3. Romans 12:6a
 - 4. Titus 3:8

III. Salt adds zest and flavor to food. It brings out flavor/taste. It is a seasoning.

- a. Salt intensifies and deepens the flavors already present in food.
- b. Christians, like salt add zest and flavor to the world. And Christians should be pulling out the best in others.
 - 1. Colossians 4:5-6
 - 2. 1 Thessalonians 5:11
 - 3. Hebrews 10:24-25
- c. Jesus is saying He has put something in us to pull the best out of people. God has given you gifts and talents to help you pull the best out of someone else. As Christians, we are called to encourage, strengthen, build up and promote the growth of others. We are to make disciples.
- d. Who are you seasoning?

IV. Salt is medicinal.

- a. Christians, like salt, can help promote healing.
 - 1. James 5:14-16
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 12:9
 - 3. Mark 16:17-18

V. Salt makes one thirsty.

a. Christians, like salt, are to make people thirsty, but for Living Water.

1. Acts 16:25-30

2. John 4:10

b. Who are we making thirsty?

VI. Salt stings when put in an open wound.

a. As Christians, our message and lifestyle should sting the conscience of the world. Our message and lifestyle should prick the heart.

1. Acts 2:36-38

2. I Corinthians 1:18-19

b. Christianity has no business being politically correct as defined by today's culture. Jesus was not politically correct. Not back then and not now. We should be Christ's representatives and ambassadors in this world. The Bible says that we are in the world, but not of the world. (John 15:18-19; John 17: 11, 14-16; 1 John 2:15-17).

c. This is why the last of the Beatitudes says:

i. "10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when they revile you and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. (Matthew 5:10-11)

VII. Salt is a preservative.

a. Salt has the ability to preserve all kinds of food.

It keeps it from decaying. In Bible times, salt was put on meat to preserve it. This is still done today. Salt curing prevents or slows spoilage and corruption, and thereby extends the shelf life of certain foods. In Bible times this was especially important because there were no refrigerators to slow down the spoilage. You see, salt draws out the water that the bacteria and fungus need to flourish. In other words, the salt creates an environment that is resistant to decay, corruption and spoilage because it makes the environment inhospitable to the evil of bacteria and fungi.

b. Let's be honest. We live in a society, a culture, a world that is full of decay and corruption. Evil is increasing. Greed is increasing. Hate is increasing. All kinds of immorality is increasing everywhere... on the radio, on TV, in books, in schools, and even in churches. This is because many churches have lost their saltiness. Some Christians stay in the salt shaker and don't apply themselves to anything.

c. Christians, like salt, are a preservative to prevent or slow the decay and corruption around the world.

1. Genesis 18:22-33

2. In the book of Revelation we see that after the church is raptured there will be an increase and acceleration of decay, corruption, and evil in the great tribulation.

VIII. So, if God calls us salt, then it must mean that:

a. We are useful, significant, and very valuable. But we must apply ourselves. We must put ourselves to use.

b. There are a variety of ways that God wants to use us in this world, and He has gifted us to fulfill His purpose.

IX. Salt must be applied/put to use to be effective.

a. Salt's value comes from its application on other things. It does no good for it to stay in the salt shaker.

b. That's why we must be doers of the Word, not just hearers.

1. Matthew 7:24-25

2. James 1:22-25

c. That's why we must do good works in the name of Jesus in order to glorify God. (Godly good works)

1. Matthew 5:14-16
2. Ephesians 2:10
3. Hebrews 13:16
4. Titus 3:8
5. Hebrews 10:24-25
6. Proverbs 3:27-28

X. Salt can lose its flavor/influence by becoming mixed with impurities or watered down, or by not being used or applied.

XI. Christians, like salt, can lose their influence by:

- a. By taking on a worldly culture rather than a Kingdom minded culture. Matthew 6:24
- b. Walking in the flesh rather than walking in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16-21
- c. Keeping quiet when they should speak up. Revelation 12:11; Jude 1:3
- d. Hiding when you should be visible. Matthew 5:14-16
- e. Not being motivated by love. I Corinthians 13
- f. Not being passionate. Revelation 2:4