

## 2-25-2026 – Salt of the Earth.

Salt makes things better. Watermelon. Pasta. Ham. Margaritas.

We use it to bring out taste, flavor. Also a Preservative.

In the ancient world, salt was a valuable commodity/same reasons - preserving food, enhancing flavor, and even as a form of currency.

Salt was commonly known, so Jesus spoke of it in the Sermon / Mount:

**Matt. 5:13 - [New Living Translation](#) - “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.”**

Salt - well known to people then & now. Was used in **Grain Offering** - first & best of the **harvest** to God; acknowledged God’s provision & sovereignty.

That demonstrated faith - trust that God would continue to provide for the rest of the harvest. . . rest of our lives.

**[Leviticus 2:13](#)** – “Season all your grain offerings with salt to remind you of God’s eternal covenant. Never forget to add salt to your grain offerings.”

- Every grain offering was sprinkled w/salt before touching the altar.
- Offer **crushed heads of new grain** roasted in the fire. (Lev. 2:14);
- Put **olive oil** on the offering & sprinkle it with **frankincense** (Lev. 2:15)
  - o Olive oil - symbolic of being God’s chosen & His anointed.
  - o Frankincense proclaims that this ordinary gift is an act of worship
  - o Crushed head of grain signifies process of refinement & removing impurities in preparation for sacrifice.
    - Jesus - crushed for our iniquities - the sacrifice for humanity.
- People knew: salt in Offering symbolized preservation; lasting covenant.

Also - **[Numbers 18:19](#)** – God grants the priestly portions to Aaron’s family “as a perpetual covenant of salt.”

- **2 Chronicles 13:5** – the dynasty of David is secured “by a covenant of salt.”

These scriptural references would have come to the mind of the Jewish people listening to Jesus’ message.

- It says to them & us - Salt is a metaphor for influence & preservation that believers should have in the world.
- Much like salt preserves food, Christians should preserve morality.

### **1 – Salt Symbolizes Our Preservative Nature**

Jesus calls on us - His followers– to have influence in this world – to be leaders in preserving the moral and spiritual fabric of society.

- As “salt of the earth” **preserve what’s right**. Preserve **integrity**. **Truth**.
- We have a responsibility to prevent moral decay in society.
- We achieve this through influence. Speaking up. Standing strong.
  - If we don’t . . . who will? Soon lying accepted. Cheating ok. We’ll glorify Robin Hood. We’ll honor felons.

### **2 – Have to Stir in the Salt**

- We don’t have influence if we sit quietly or isolate ourselves.
- Cooking **EX** – you don’t pour salt in 1 corner. You must **stir it in!**
  - It can’t just be on the surface. Can’t be superficial Christians
  - Walk the talk. Say what’s right... do what’s right... don’t support what’s wrong – what is not moral – what is not ethical.
- But note - salt is a sweetener. When added to food, it brings out the sweet flavor. Salt brings out sweetness. **EX** – watermelon.
  - Our influence should bring out a sweet kindness in society.
  - We can’t bring out kindness if we respond with hate.
- We’re called to be the salt / the earth – a sweet preservative of society.

- **EX** – it’s not a sweet preservative if it’s too salty . . . just let that sink in . . . nope. Can’t be too preachy/religious. Be everyday people acting – walking – thinking like Jesus.
- Whatever your environment your presence should make it better!

But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again?

**3 – If salt can’t bring out sweetness, it is worthless.**

**No longer preserves? It has no purpose.**

- If Salt becomes contaminated with impurities, it’s rendered useless.
- This Q serves as a **warning** - danger of **compromise, complacency**.
- We’re called to be witnesses. Salt./light Otherwise, its **empty worship**.
  - Jesus warns of empty worship which leads to worthless lives:
    - **Mark 7:6-7** - Jesus said: “**You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.’**”
      - He called it worshipping in vain. (vs 7) No effect. It’s like salt that doesn’t sweeten . . . doesn’t preserve.
    - **God spoke to Ezekial - Ezekiel 33:31** – “My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to hear your words, but they do not put them into practice. Their mouths speak of love, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain.”
    - **James 1:22** – “Be doers of the word, and not hearers only.”
  - Our faith is no good if we aren’t living it - sharing it - **stirring it up!**
  - The love of God should touch our hearts ... minds ... souls. It should guide/direct every aspect of our lives.
- Ancient times, unsavory salt was discarded & used to cover pathways, where it would be trampled underfoot.
  - Today, we use **road salt** - “**rock salt.**” Road salt has contaminants & toxic components. Can’t eat it ... has limited use.

- But Table Salt is refined, purified, fine-grained; it has many uses: seasoning, flavor, preserving food; cleaning cookware, removing stains, eliminating odors, extinguishing grease fires . . . gargling.
- What do we want to be? Purified/ high value & purpose? Or trampled?
  - Spiritually, **if God's word doesn't get inside us & change how we live, we'll never fulfill our higher calling to be a disciple of Christ.**
  - To be "trampled by men" is a metaphor for losing respect and influence in the world.
  - When we aren't producing fruit, God may end our time on earth. Jesus told parable of the unfruitful fig tree ([Luke 13:6-9](#)). No fruit after 3 years /dig it up. Why should it use up the soil? 1 more yr.

#### 4 - Can it be made salty again?

It's a rhetorical question Jesus didn't answer.

It asks – is it irreversible to lose our spiritual effectiveness?

- In the natural world, once salt becomes impure, it can't be restored.
- Spiritually, it's difficult to regain witness once it has been compromised.
- Apostle Paul thinks it's impossible:
  - <sup>4</sup>For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened - those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup>who have tasted the goodness of the word of God & the power of the age to come - <sup>6</sup>and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance!" – [Heb. 6:4-6](#)
- The only solution is repentance and renewed dependence on Christ.
- Stay joined to the vine. [John 15:5](#) It's then
- **<sup>8</sup>When you become fruitful disciples of mine, my Father will be honored."** – John 15:8.
- Jesus' question is a call for us to examine our own hearts. Have we become listeners and not doers? Are we no longer Salty?

We've been given a mission – have Christian influence.