
Matthew 5:13-16

When we read this text, we MUST keep in mind that Christ's teaching on salt and light comes right on the heels of the Beatitudes. ***That is significant!*** The Beatitudes identify the characteristics or spiritual qualities of the child of God. You will know children of the Kingdom of God by their (Attitudes) or Beatitudes, which should be visible and conspicuous in their lives and conversation.

As children of God, you should love the Beatitudes, and have a desire to be what is expressed in each of them. When all of these qualities are united together in the heart and soul of a Christian, (a child of the Kingdom of God), YOU Christian, ARE the **"salt of the earth" and the "light of the world."**

"Ye are the salt of the earth"

The Lord Jesus has now shifted from "they" and "those" to YOU.

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for THEIRS is the Kingdom of heaven; blessed are THEY that mourn: for THEY shall be comforted; blessed are the Meek: for THEY shall inherit the earth. Etc. (**They and Those**)

So it was they and those, but now in verses 13-16, it is YOU.

So the Lord Jesus has shifted from the character & identity of the child of God, to the POWERFUL INFLUENCE that should exist within EVERY child of the Kingdom of God.

AND...He is speaking in the indicative mood, which means, the mood of reality. This is what IS!

The point is, those who live out the Beatitudes in their lives "ARE" actually, and in reality the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

The present tense (THIS IS WHAT YOU ARE) expresses a constant condition in the character of every child of the Kingdom.

So FIRST, what are the characteristics of salt? What does it mean to be "salt" or "SALTY"? And more than that, "what does it mean to be the salt of the earth."

In the time of Christ, there were no refrigerators or freezers to store your meat in, no vacuum packing, etc., so salt was used in old times and in Biblical culture to preserve meat and other foods to keep them from spoiling, decaying, and rotting. It is still used for this purpose all over the world. ***Jesus' hearers understood this, practically.***

It's a fact that salt inhibits the growth of bacteria, microbes, and other organisms that cause disease or decay in foods. So the influence of salt into food preserves it.

Salt preserves the food by penetrating it and removing or killing that which would cause the food to decay and corrupt.

So when Jesus said: "Ye are the salt of the earth":

The first thing we should understand is the POWERFUL INFLUENCE that a child of God should have on his or her personal society; **his or her sphere of influence.** Your family, your workplace, your neighborhood; and yes, in your church assembly.

Children of God who are living the Beatitudes, should and will influence those around them away from immorality, moral decay, and ungodliness in the world. Even if those around you don't come to know Christ by your witness and testimony, (which is our ultimate desire for them), knowing you, seeing your

life, and hearing your conversation should constantly be pointing them toward Christ

In fact, in many instances, ***sinners will sin less when they are around you!*** Your influence should keep them from running headlong into sin and wickedness.

Is your life making a difference in the lives of those that you know who are unbelievers? Are you influencing them toward Christ and true and genuine righteousness and away from immorality, sin, and the corruption of the world? Is your testimony penetrating their lives?

1 Corinthians 7:12-16, 1 Peter 3:1-4, Are you salt? Ecclesiastes 12:11

Christians are EVERY SOCIETY'S conscience and moral compass.

Salt also heals, but when you salt a wound you will also irritate it; you Christian are to be salt in the wounds of souls diseased with sin.

But not only does salt preserve foods from rotting; when you eat something salty, it stimulates the taste of foods, and then, it also makes you very thirsty after you have eaten something salty!

As salt stimulates taste in foods, your conversation and your manner of life in the world should "stimulate and provoke" those around you to think upon your Christ, but your life should also point them to Christ!

Colossians 4:5-6, Ephesians 4:29, 1 Peter 3:15

"But if the salt have lost his savour, (or saltiness) wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

If the salt in the saltshaker on your kitchen table became tasteless, or loses its saltiness, what would you do?

Lost his savour is interesting when it is defined; it means insipid, or to be without distinctive or stimulating qualities. (Bland)

The Greek word is #3471, moraino from moros, which means foolish. (Moron)

Or, to act as a simpleton, or to become foolish, dull, or heedless.

If Christians are the salt of the earth, they MUST not lose their savour. So the Lord is teaching us that if a Christian loses their saltiness, they are thenceforth good for nothing in the Kingdom of God.

The purpose for which you exist, child of God, is to be the salt of the earth. You are to be influencing people toward the Kingdom of God; you are to be STOPPING the corruption in your families and in the lives of those around you by your godly life and conversation.

Your words (gospel words) should be like goads fastened in the hearts of sinners, convicting them of their sins before God. *You are to be "salty salt."*

I think in Mark 9, we can see what it means to "lose your savour" as a believer.

They were disputed among themselves about who would be greatest in the Kingdom of God; and they were also trying to hinder another man from doing the work of the Lord.

Mark 9:33-40, 9:49-50

You will lose your saltiness, (your influence, your seasoning, your testimony), the disciples were arguing among themselves about their own greatness, and they were offended because someone else was casting out devils without them.

