



# Salty Souls

Matthew 5:13 - "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."

# Salt and Christian Influence

- Animals make paths to salt licks - *diligently sought*
- Trade route always included a salt source as a critical part of the trade journey - *a valuable commodity*
- Roman soldiers were paid in salt, a universal medium of exchange in the Empire - *a trustworthy standard*
- Allowed ancient cultures to preserve food, enabling life and culture to spread around the world - *promotes growth*
- A precise amount must always present in our bodies where significant deviations can result in sickness or death - *vital to life*
- Is used worldwide as the number one condiment to enhance the taste of food - *is universally desired and appreciated*

# Salt In Scripture

- A symbol of a binding covenant
  - Lev. 2:13 - “And every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your offerings you shall offer salt.”
- A healing and cleansing aid
  - 2Kings 2:20-21 - “And he said, Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it. So they brought it to him. 21 Then he went out to the source of the water, and cast in the salt there, and said, Thus says the LORD: 'I have healed this water; from it there shall be no more death or barrenness.’”

# Salt In Scripture

- An aid to the appetite
  - Job 6:6 - “Can flavorless food be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?”
- A preserving influence
  - Luke 14:34-35 - “Salt is good...”
  - “Kalos - good literally or morally, valuable or virtuous in appearance and virtue of its use” (Strong's)

# Salt In Scripture

- A promoter of peace
  - Mark 9:50 - “Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”
- A manifestation of influence
  - Matt. 5:13 - “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?”
- A means of facilitating communication
  - Col. 4:6 - “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”

# We Are Called Salt Because Of:

- Our preserving ability
  - Prov. 14:34 - “Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.”

# We Are Called Salt Because Of:

- Our penetrating effect
  - Acts 8:1, 4 - “Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles... 4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”
  - Acts 17:6 - “But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.”

# We Are Called Salt Because Of:

- Our purifying influence
  - 2Kings 2:19-22 - Elisha cleansed the waters at Jericho with salt.
  - Ez. 16:4 - In ancient times, newborn babies were washed in salt to cleanse their bodies and to give firmness to their skin

# We Are Called Salt Because Of:

- Christians have a purifying influence on the world around them. The world acts differently when a Christian is among them
  - Rom. 12:2 - “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

# We Are Called Salt Because Of:

- Our pleasant nature
  - Christians flavor the world around them; they make it taste like Jesus
  - Phil. 1:27 - “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel”

# We Are Called Salt Because Of:

- Our poisonous potential
  - Salt can kill
  - Judges 9:45 - “So Abimelech fought against the city all that day; he took the city and killed the people who were in it; and he demolished the city and sowed it with salt.”
- A Christian who is not ashamed will have a dampening effect on the practice of sin around him
  - 2Cor. 5:17 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

# Perseverance Of Salt

- It was possible for salt in that day to lose its quality
- It is possible for Christians to lose their saltiness.
  - This happens when we allow ourselves to be influenced by the world rather than influencing the world. When we get to be more like the world than we are like the Lord, then we have lost that which sets us apart and makes us valuable to the Lord's purposes
  - This also happens when we allow ourselves to become a blend of Christian and other elements from the world

# Perseverance Of Salt

- The destination of unsalted Christians
  - In ancient times, when salt lost its savor, it was then taken out and used for paving materials, especially the bituminous and cliff salt
  - 1Cor. 9:27 - “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

# Salty Souls

- Christians must become salted souls, cultivating a strong influence for Christ in the world around them. Otherwise the Lord will consider us without flavor and cast us out
  - Lev. 2:13 - “And every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your offerings you shall offer salt.”
  - 1Peter 2:12 - “having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”
  - Phil. 2:15 - “that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world”