

# Salt of the Earth

Matt. 5.13

## Introduction:

- A. One of Jesus' many illustrations.
- B. Salt expensive in New Testament times.
  - 1. Sometimes used to pay for labor – “Not worth his salt.”
  - 2. “Salary” from same root word as “salt.”
- C. Let us look at some of the powers of salt.

## Discussion:

### I. Preserving Power.

- A. A food preservative: Meat, fish, some vegetables before refrigeration.
- B. Christians a preserving force on the earth.
  - 1. Without godly people the world is doomed (Psa. 9:17; Prov. 14:34; Amos 9:8)
    - a. Noah and his family saved world.
    - b. Ten righteous souls would have saved Sodom and Gomorrah.
- C. Close between salt and meat necessary – few inches apart no good
  - 1. Ancient monks did not understand Lord's teaching.
  - 2. Not to isolate from people, but teach and influence them.

### II. Irritating Power.

- A. Salt in a cut, sore, or wound.
- B. Word of God sometimes does good when it irritates (Heb. 4:12).
- C. Christians, by teaching and life, irritate folks.
  - 1. Stirs up persecution (Matt. 5:11-12).
  - 2. Not real cause of persecution, but emphasizes sore spot already there.
- D. Jesus did not say, “Ye are the sugar, honey, or sweetness of world.”
  - 1. Today many want to emphasize only sugar - love.
  - 2. Need love, but emphasizing it all the time is not way of Christ.
    - a. Jesus' rebuke of the Pharisees (Matt 23:25-26)
    - b. John the Baptist's rebuke of Herod (Matt. 14:3-4).
    - c. Stephen's rebuke of Jews (Acts 7:51-53)
    - d. Paul often irritated folks.

### III. Thirsting Power.

- A. Eating salty food makes us thirsty.
- B. Christian, by teaching and life, make others thirst for word of God.
  - 1. Cause others to want to be free from sin.
  - 2. Cause others to want to be in God's family.
  - 3. Cause others to want to have peace of mind.
  - 4. Cause others to hope for life beyond the grave.
  - 5. Certain man did everything to hinder wife from attending.
    - a. Took car, hid clothes, etc.
    - b. Wife had to walk or get ride during rain, snow, etc.
    - c. Over time His heart softened – now a preacher.
    - d. Could have demanded right, but driven his farther away (cf. 1 Pet. 3:1-4).

### IV. Flavoring Power.

- A. Many foods bland without salt – missed when not present.
- B. Salt can lose flavor by elements, moisture or impurities.
  - 1. Worthless salt was put on pathways (Luke 14:34-35).
  - 2. As salt we will be tested (Mk. 9:49-50)
    - a. Must have salt within us.
    - b. Our speech seasoned with salt (Col. 4:6).
- C. Many ways to lose our saltiness.
  - 1. Contaminated by world (Jas. 1:27; Jude 22, 23)
  - 2. By becoming lukewarm, watered-down.

## Conclusion:

- A. Song, “What the world needs now is love, sweet love.”
- B. Really, what the world needs is salt, pure salt.
- C. If not Christ, become one – if lost saltiness renew yourself now.