

YE ARE MATTHEW 5

Text:

Introduction:

As we consider the picture of a Christian, we'll notice that one picture is a substance, while the other is an object. However both are for the benefit of something other than itself.

1. DESCRIPTION TO ANALYZE (SALT AND LIGHT)

A. Salt

1. Our Preserving Ability

(III. Salt wards off rot and decay! It is rubbed into meat in an effort to preserve it.)

(III. Sodom and Gomorrah - Gen. 19. They could have been saved by the preserving influence of just 10 righteous men.)

So it is in America today! I am convinced that the presence and the prayers of "salty" Christians has done more to preserve this nation than anything else we

could name. It is the righteousness of God's children that made America great and it is what keeps this country from being judged today, Pro. 14:34.

Proverbs 14:34

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

2. Our Penetrating Ability

(III. Salt will penetrate and infiltrate whatever it touches. It is an aggressive substance.)

(III. The early church - Acts 8:1, 4; Acts 17:6.)

I believe that we have been called by the Lord to be an active force in the world around us. The church should be a militant army charging the very gates of Hell, Matt. 16:18.

3. Our Purifying Ability

(III. Salt has remarkable cleansing ability.)

2 Kings 2:19-22 - Elisha cleansed the waters at Jericho with salt.

In ancient times, newborn babies were washed in salt to cleanse their bodies and to give firmness to their skin, Eze. 16:4.)

(III. Salt in a wound can cleanse the area.)

(III. Every meat offering was to be made with salt - Lev. 2:13.

4. Our Pleasing Ability

Bringing out the best. Salt blends and adds flavor to food. In fact, there are some foods that are better off not eaten, if there is no salt!

Job 6:6

Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there any taste in the white of an egg?

5. Our Poisoning Ability

(III. Salt kills some things!)

Ever poured salt on a slug? Slugs and salt do not mix!

Salt poured on a lawn will kill the grass.

Too much salt is not good for your blood pressure.

(III. Abimelech, in Judges 9:45, took a city and the sowed the city with salt to prevent the ground from being used to grow crops. He killed the fields with salt.)
By the same token, when true Christianity is sowed into the lives, homes and communities of the world, some things will be put to death. We can make an impact on our world by the very fact that Christianity is pure poison to sin.

When Jesus comes into a life, drinking, cussing, fighting, hating, killing, drugging, loose living, etc. Are put to death

6. Our Promoting Ability

(III. Salt creates a thirst for water in those who are exposed to it!)

As salt, the Christian has the wonderful opportunity to promote a thirst for Jesus in the world. Remember what the Lord told us? He said that out of our bellies would flow rivers of living water - John 7:37-38.

7. Our Proven Ability -

(III. Salt changes nearly everything it touches. III. Food, ice, etc.)

(III. We are called to be thermostats and not thermometers in the world around us. We are to be the instruments that God can use to implement change in a wicked world. When genuine, New Testament Christianity touches this sinful, wicked world, there will be change of some variety. We just need to be sure that we are changing the world and not the other way around!

(III. The modern mentality, "We have to be like the world to win the world." We'll win more if we are like Jesus!

B. Light

The first recorded words of God was let there be light.

1. Light is reflective.

We are as Christians to reflect the true light; Jesus Christ.

2. Light is active

Light travels 186,000 mile per second.

God to wants us to be active. (1 Cor 15:58)

1 Cor. 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

3. Light is revealing

The purpose of most light is not to be itself but rather to enable you to see other objects.

Illustration: Run way lights at the airport or a lighthouse.

4. Light is cheerful and comforting

Illustration: Christmas lights.

5. Light has no fellowship with darkness.

Ephes. 5:8

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

2 Cor. 6:14

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

2. DANGERS TO AVOID.

A. Salt losing it savor or effectiveness

How does salt lose its saltiness?

1. Association

When the salt in Palestine was exposed to rain or sun and the ground it became useless.

Just as salt can become useless through exposure to the wrong elements, so can a Christian.

Proverbs 13:20

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

1 Cor. 15:33

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

2 Cor. 6:14-18

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2. Contamination

James 1:27

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

John 17:14-15

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

B. Light being hid.

The Bible sates that were are to be as a city that is set on a hill.

- It can be seen for miles.
- The darker the night the brighter the light.
 1. The problem with a dim light is that the those around us will not glorify God.
 2. How do we keep a bright light?
- Keep the wick trimmed
- Keep it in a good safe spot

- Use the right type of fuel

Psalm 89:20

I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him:

Always be on guard for those things and people that try to dim your light.

Wrong Crowd

Wrong music or entertainment

Wrong things on TV

Wrong things in books