

YE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

MATTHEW 5:13

Text: Matthew 5:13

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¹³ Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Introduction:

Following the beatitudes, the Lord gives two illustrations to help us see how we should affect the world around us, if the beatitudes are present in our lives.

We are to be like salt.

Salt is a miraculous element.

It's composed of 2 poisons: chloride and sodium. If you ingest either by itself, you'll die. But put them together and you have common, ordinary salt.

1. REVELATION – “YE ARE”

Matthew 5:13

¹³ Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

The Lord did not say you could be, or that you should be, or even that it would be good for you to be, He declared – “Ye Are”

2. REWARD

A. Salts Preserving Ability

That says something about our society...it is rotting and decaying as there is less and less salt being shaken on it.

Just look at music over the last 50 years. It used to be that Dick Clark’s American Bandstand was considered the music of rebellion. But look at MTV today, and you’ll think Mr. Clark was a Sunday School teacher!

Humanism and evolution say we are getting better and better, but rather we are spiraling downward.

Sodom and Gomorrah could have been saved by the preserving influence of just 10 righteous men.

B. Salts Penetrating Ability

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

C. Salts Pleasing Ability

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

⁶ Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there *any* taste in the white of an egg?

D. Salts Purifying Ability

Salt has remarkable cleansing ability

- Elijah cleaned the waters at Jericho with salt

2 Kings 2:19-22

¹⁹ And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city *is* pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water *is* naught, and the ground barren. ²⁰ And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought *it* to him. ²¹ And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren *land*. ²² So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.

- In ancient times newborn babies were washed in salt to cleanse the bodies and firm up their skin.

Ezekiel 16:4

⁴And *as for* thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple *thee*; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.

E. Salts Poisoning Ability

Salt kills some things.

Salt poured on a lawn will kill the grass.

Too much salt is not good for your blood pressure.

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.

Judges 9:45

⁴⁵And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and slew the people that *was* therein, and beat down the city, and sowed it with salt.

3. RISK – IF THE SALT HAVE LOST HIS SAVOUR

Matthew 5:13

¹³ Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

What is this losing of the savour?

It doesn't mean losing salvation...it's still salt, but it's lost its influence or testimony.

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

Many Christians have become objects of ridicule, a laughingstock, because they prove to not be genuine.

It's interesting to me the story of Lot's wife.

We reminded in Luke to "Remember Lot's wife"

Luke 17:32

³² Remember Lot's wife.

A. Remember Her Privilege

- She had shared the experiences of Abraham
- She had a righteous husband (2 Pet 2:7-8)

2 Peter 2:7-8

⁷ And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: ⁸ (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)

B. Remember Her Possessions

Genesis 13:10-11

¹⁰ And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it *was* well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, *even* as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. ¹¹ Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

C. Remember Her Perishing

In the midst of her possessions and privilege she perished.

It's interesting what happened to her in her perishing.

She was turned into a pillar of salt.

If she wasn't going to be a testimony while living, she would become one in perishing.

Sad, but many do more in dying than they do in living.

Such was Samson.

Judges 16:30

³⁰ And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with *all his* might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that *were* therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than *they* which he slew in his life.

Close:

The Lord gave the 8 beatitudes, and then He illustrates or gives us a picture of what they produce or how they are seen in the lives of those whom the beatitudes are present.

Is it seen in you, are you salt?