

The Salt of the Earth

Matthew 13:34 “*All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them.*”

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Matthew 5:13 and Luke 14:34-35 provide the Scripture for this parable. The parable deals with the influence and witness of the Christian in the world. We know Jesus is Savior of the world, but what are Christians to the world? What is the influence of the Christian in the world? Jesus Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, but what are Christians? Where do Christians fit in this world? I have often said “if we had no role in this world, God would have raptured us to Heaven the moment He saved us.” However, He did not, for he left us in this world for a reason. That reason is *that we may be salt*.

Salt- what is it? You may not like being called *salt*. As we will speak later, salt sure is a common, inexpensive commodity. Yet, do not be offended for we shall see it has great importance. The first phrase of Luke 14:34 is “*salt is good.*” By the way, this is the Lord speaking. If he calls me *good*, I am delighted.

According to the Scripture spoken by the Lord, the earth needs salt. Heaven does not need salt, the earth does. Hence, we know this parable speaks of the influence of the Christian in this world. Christ spoke that Christians are salt and the earth needs them. Thus, I believe the primary reason God did not rapture you the moment you were saved is that the earth needs you. So, be glad you are here. You are here for a divine purpose. That should make every Christian feel good, for there is no better feeling than to be wanted. The President may never call me and say “I need you,” but that is okay, for one higher than the President needs me. Never say “I don’t matter in this world.” You *do* matter for Christ said you did.

What purpose is salt? I admit I had rather be called gold or silver or even wood than to be called salt. Let us explore further to see the

benefit of salt to this world. Salt is not antiseptic. Have you any knowledge of the word antiseptic? Sepsis means “a toxic condition resulting from the spread of bacteria or their products from a focus of infection.” So, the dictionary says antiseptic opposes sepsis. An antiseptic agent prevents or arrests the growth of microorganisms such as germs. If you have a cut, put some antiseptic on it to kill potential germs. It will promote healing of the injury. Thank God for giving mankind antiseptics.

As an example we can all relate to, we are told bad breath is caused by bacteria in the mouth. I never buy mouth rinse or mouth wash that is not labeled antiseptic. Further, I do not buy hand soap that does not contain an antiseptic agent. I want something that kills germs! I want to wash my hands in a soap that fights bacteria for we know from the medical field the easiest mode for germs entering our body is from the hands and into the mouth. A panel of medical doctors said one of the best precautions to the common cold was to wash your hands every time you have opportunity. I like to rinse my mouth with antiseptic mouth rinse and know a couple million dead germs go down the drain.

Salt is *not* antiseptic. Antiseptic is against poison and tends to cure. Where microorganisms are already growing, don't add salt. Don't put salt on a festering sore or a cut. You may never stop running, and it will in no wise cure you. Where sin is festering, Christians can often, in good conscience, make the situation worse. Neither I nor you nor any Christian is the answer where sin is festering. I have seen some cases where I wished I had the power to exorcise a demon out of a person. As a Christian, I can't. All we can do is turn to one who can exorcise the demon and that is God.

Salt never cures corruption. The ol' timers packed meat in salt. If the meat had already started to corrupt or rot, no need to add salt. It would not purify it. You cannot sit on the bar stool with a drunkard and cure his corruption. You cannot talk the sin out of a sinner. How many times has a Christian in good intentions made the situation worse by trying to cure sin within the power of self. One greater than I is needed to kill sin.

Salt is aseptic- it prevents the formation of infection. If meat is already tainted and corrupt, salt will not make it untainted and uncorrupt. However, if meat is packed in salt, corruption, decay, and rot will not attack it. Live for God, be a Christian and you can have an influence on the spread of sin in this world. Be a Christian in your neighborhood and stop the spread of sin. Be a Christian in your workplace and stop the spread of sin. Be a Christian in your city and stop the spread of sin. I like to listen to recorded Gospel music and preaching, for I believe it drives away sinful influence that may come around. Try it!

Although salt is beneficial, it can lose its savour as spoken in verse 34. The “savour” is the pungent power of the salt or “tang.” Try tasting some salt that is old or has been exposed to moisture. It does not taste salty for its “savour” is gone. A Christian can never lose their soul, but they can lose their “savour.” When the “savour” is lost, the salt has no value. Verse 35 says it is then unfit to be cast in a ditch or a landfill.

Matthew 5:13 says throw the salt with no savour out and let men walk on it. The world is stepping on the church. The church has lost its power. Churches are made up of individuals. Individuals have lost their power. How? Unholy living. A saved woman who dresses like the world has lost her influence unto the world. A saved man who speaks like the world has lost his “savour” as salt. What benefit is a born-again person to God when their influence to the world is lost?

The Lord expects his children to prevent the spread of sin’s corruptive forces. This brings us to the point of inspecting ourselves as Christians. The world is getting more sinful. Could we as Christians possibly be at fault? The next time we condemn the spread of violence in the community, we need to ask ourselves a question; are we being a Christian? Are we being salt for Christ?

Lot should have been the salt Sodom needed. If he had been, would Sodom have been spared? Lot’s wife was forever turned to a pillar of salt. Why was Lot’s wife turned to a pillar of salt? God did this to remind Lot of the influence he failed to be to that wicked city.

Colossians 4:6 reads “*Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt.*” We should pack the tongue in salt. If we will, it will accomplish two things. It will make us crave the water of the Word. Secondly, it will put out the fire of hell that resides in every person’s tongue. Salt won’t burn. The book of James tells us the tongue is a fire “*set on fire of hell*” (James 3:6).

I am convinced more than ever that there are many folk saved, but few Christians in this world. A Christian is salt. A saved person may not be.

Imagine this horrible thought- if the Christians hold sin in check in this world, what will the earth be like the day the rapture takes place? What a frightening thought. Fire will fall from heaven for the salt is gone. Sinner, be saved today (read Romans 10:13).