

Matthew 5:13-16

I Love Salt and so does Jesus!

Beatitudes, Part 6

I love Salt! I really do!

A) I know too much salt is bad for you and unfortunately I am getting to that age where I have to think about those things.

B) **But I love Salty food** – eggs / steak chicken – Salt Snacks – Pretzels and Popcorn

C) **Company – interview/lunch** you salt your food before you taste it – no matter how qualified – gifted – the interview is over - **Too set in your ways**

1) I would **fail that interview 90% of the time** – first reflex – add some salt.

C) Cashews – Jamie – Cashews – how can you eat those – What?

I love salt – so does Jesus! – Salty Christians that is.

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.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. – PRAY

Why are you here? Why do you exist?

A) Does your life feel like a weekly grind? Every day – just grinding it out – make it to the next –

B) Goal is to make it to weekend? Rest? Can't wait until Friday?

C) “**Nothing ruins your Friday like realizing it is only Tuesday.**”

1) I have experienced that – Sometimes life can seem that way - GRINDING IT OUT!

D) Higher Purpose: Eternal Purpose: Jesus addresses that in our text today –

Last week finished the Beatitudes – attitudes God is seeking to produce

A) This section: **Similitudes** – A similitude means likeness

B)– A **Simile is an expression of Comparing** one thing to another

C) Jesus is going to tell us that in relationship to the world – the man or woman described in the Beatitudes is **JUST LIKE** two specific things – **SALT AND LIGHT**

D) Both of these Similes are packed with meaning and practical application

Salt & Light WERE two commodities that were greatly valued in NT times

A) Roman soldiers were paid in salt – Salarium – get our English word Salary from it “**He is not worth his salt.**”

B) Salt rations were valuable to them & would revolt if they changed.

C) Oil for lamps was also a precious and valuable commodity

D) We can tend to take them for granted because they are so common in our society.

1) Flick a switch and we get light – Think about the **1,000's of salt packets that are thrown out** every day in fast food restaurants around the world

Jesus uses these two important and Valuable elements in their day (Salt & Light) to Paint a Picture of the VALUE that faithful Christians can have upon their world!

A) **EMPHATIC:** You alone are salt and light – Not Buddhist – Mormons – Jesus followers

B) **Indicative expression** not an imperative expression.

C) **Imperative** = that you have to become salt and light

1) **Indicative** = You already are!

Ephesians 5:8 “**For you were once darkness, but NOW you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.**”

D)As Christians we have been brought out of DARKNESS and placed into LIGHT! –

1)Recognize our calling!- EMBRACE IT

Today I want us to consider 5 USES OF SALT IN THAT CULTURE- DRAW A parallel – The impact a Christ follower can have in this culture

#1 **Preservative**: they understood this: many of the disciples were fishermen.

A)They would catch fish and some of those fish were **sold immediately** – but many were packed up and shipped to Tiberias and Jerusalem.

B)All of those fish were salted!

C)They didn't have refrigeration – couldn't pack them in ice – Used Salt

1)Killed game – Meat – No Refrigeration –

D)So they would rub salt into the meat – Kill the bacteria – keep it fresh for a longer period of time

THE WORLD IS DECAYING!

A)History is not an account of Evolution, w/man climbing higher & higher –

B)It is a sad tale of Devolution, w/man falling lower and lower!

C)When things decay, they fall apart!- **Favorite sweat shirt.....**

1)When a living creature dies, it can no longer support its cell structure, so the body begins to decompose - it falls apart!

D)We are seeing Society Falling Apart all around us: “Marriages, Families, Law & Order,

1)The Basic Institutions of society are on the ‘Extinction list!’”

The fact the world is Decaying should not encourage the Christian to **isolate & insulate himself,**

A)Our place is not standing on the sidelines & waiting for the great collapse.

B)Unfortunately that is the stance that a lot of believers take –

1)Isolate, insulate and wait for the End

C)Think in terms of SURVIVAL – make it through unscathed - INSTEAD OF IMPACT

1)High School mentality

D)JESUS SAYS – NO YOU ARE SALT – not isolate but infiltrate - permeate culture – Preserving element in culture

A key thought in both the pictures of salt and light is that of connection.

A)Light is meant to be seen and Salt is meant to permeate what it is attached to

B)Consider the contrast between Jonah and Jesus -{**Jonah sat outside the city & hoped that judgment would fall** - bummed when it didn't

1)Sometimes Christians not only hate Sin, but they hate Sinners!

C)Jonah sat on a hill overlooking the city hoping it would be judged – and wept when it wasn't!

Whereas Jesus sat on a hill overlooking Jerusalem & wept over it because judgment was inevitable!}

A)But then he entered that city to do something about it! - Save as many as He could!

B)Jesus is wanting us to follow his example:

Young Preachers

1) “World shapers, game changers, and risk takers.” – Ben Courson

C)Daniel in Babylon and Joseph in Egypt were both placed in pagan wicked cultures but acted as DIVINE SALT to make a huge impact!

D)God's heart for all of us – Divine salt - #1 Preserving influence

#2 **Salt purifies and cleanses**: The best gargle for a sore throat is plain salt water.

A)In that culture: Baby was born – they were wiped down with water and then salted –

B)**Picture the OBGYN – Salt shaker**

1)Salt killed the bacteria on the skin and kept disease from impacting the babies.

C)Brand new babies in Christ need someone salty around them

1)Discipleship important Last week – 30 people – Immediately – come along side

D)The church of Jesus Christ has had a purifying influence wherever it has gone.

1)You may think that your community is in a bad state, but take out the church and you would not want to live there.

#3 Salt brought healing: The Roman soldier would often rub salt into their wounds on the battle field – so valuable – life saving

A)Baseball – Red clay – Scrapes - Go to the beach – Healing

B)BUT IT ALSO STINGS – Sometimes – stings – uncomfortable but it is needed

C)Sometimes our lives can have a stinging effect.

#4 Salt enhanced the flavor of things - The Greeks called salt "charitas" (grace) because it gave flavor to things.

A) SALT ALSO SEASONS WHATEVER IT TOUCHES!

B)We can add the incredible flavor of Grace to this world – through our speech – through our actions

1) **“Walk in wisdom toward those *who are outside*, redeeming the time. ⁶Let your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” ~ Colossians 4:6**

C)Using Social Media: Facebook – Great post – Instagram: Sarah Krippner

D)The way we treat others: Waitress at the Restaurant or the person in the check out line at Costco or the Grocery store!

Is a setting brightened by your presence there? President Woodrow Wilson told the story of being in a barbershop one day

"I was sitting in a barber chair when a man came quietly into the same shop as myself to have his hair cut and sat in the chair next to me. Every word the man uttered, showed a personal interest in the man who was cutting his hair.

What he was saying was very genuine and I didn't detect any form of ulterior motive other than **the personal well-being of the Barber.**

But before I got through with my haircut I was aware I had attended an evangelistic service,

because Mr. D. L. Moody was the man in that chair. {**Billy Graham of his day.**

THEN HE SAID THIS: POWERFUL

I purposely lingered in the room after he had left and noted the singular effect that his visit had brought upon the barber shop.

People were talking about this man even though they did not know his name, but they knew something had **elevated their thoughts**, and I felt that as I left that place, it was like **I had left a place of worship."**

WOW!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lord help us to leave that type of impact upon the places we enter!

A)Happens when we get our eyes off of ourselves – become others centered and people oriented – seeking the personal well being of others

B)**Jesus was that Way!** – He was called **the friend of sinners** – they enjoyed being around him– He added Flavor to his world.

C)Sadly that is not always the case with us. – We can come across holier than though or so unrelatable to the world!

When I was in college – I had an experience like this that profoundly changed my approach with non – Christians

A)Blake - I am a Christian – I don't drink - translation – **“You are a heathen and I am better than you”**

B)Kenny – CHILI'S type place - Saved – came to church

5 USES OF SALT IN THAT CULTURE

#1 Salt was a Preservative

#2 Salt Purifies and Cleanses

#3 Salt brought Healing

#4 Salt Enhanced the Flavor of things

#5 Salt Creates Thirst!

The story about Dr. Will H. Houghton, who pastored the Calvary Baptist Church in New York City and later served as president of Chicago's Moody Bible Institute till his death in 1946.

When Dr. Houghton became pastor of the CHURCH a man in that city hired a private detective to follow Dr. Houghton and report on his conduct.

After a few weeks, the detective was able to report to the man that Dr. Houghton's life matched his preaching.

As a result, that man became a Christian. What would happen if someone followed you or me around for a few weeks

A) What would be the impact? Would they want to become a Christ follower after intently observing our lives.

B) Here is another question: If you suddenly were called to move to another State – left your place of work – place where you lived.

1) **Would you be missed?** Would people even know you were gone?

C) Do people even know who you are? Because you have made an effort to engage your culture?

D) Not asking these questions to make anyone feel bad – **I am just asking the question – Consider – Are you making an impact?**

1) **WOULD YOU BE MISSED AT ALL?**

E) SEE, we need to embrace that We are here to make an Eternal Impact

1) That is why we exist here on Planet earth!

MAKING AN IMPACT EVEN WHEN IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT

I read a story this week of a missionary couple that served faithfully for fifteen years among a particular people group in Kenya - **without seeing any outward response.**

They labored practically in the culture, doing all they could to set Christ before these people and shared the gospel at every chance they got.

But no one responded until a couple of days after their departure.

The ladies who cleaned their house and the gardener who took care of the grounds as well as the milkman who delivered their milk all converged upon the empty house one day at the same time, related how much they now missed these Christians.

They **All wept about this sense of loss**, and reflected upon what they saw in them and what they had taught them.

Each one of them ended up giving their lives to Christ!

The church among that people group was born without a missionary but not without **the salt and light influence of that Christian family** that lived among these people for fifteen years, faithfully living unto the Lord.

What they did not accomplish with their preaching they accomplished by being Christians in a decaying world.

My POINT

If we are living our lives rightly, engaging our world, permeating the lives of those around us.

Our lives should make them thirsty!

What if Salt loses it's flavor? **“Good for nothing but to thrown out and trampled under foot by men.”**

A) All of you Scientist and Chemist in the room are thinking – Salt – Sodium Chloride is a stable element – It can't lose it's saltiness

B) Put your mind at ease: Those listening to Jesus knew exactly what he was talking about –

C) In Israel a lot of the salt was mined directly from Salt veins – It was very pure – couldn't lose it's flavor.

But other salt was taken from the dead sea!

A) That salt could be used for something things – but it had Bitumen and other chemicals mixed in.

B) If that salt was left outside in the rain – and the rain washed over it – the Salt was washed out of it. – Bitter

1) You didn't want to put that on your steak or rub it on a baby or into a wound at all.

C) **BUT THEY ALSO DIDN'T WANT IT TO GO TO WASTE.**

That salt was hauled up to the Temple Mount. Temple Mount was divided into 3 sections:

A) **Court of Israel** – Israeli men went to pray and worship.

B) **Outer court** – the Court of the Gentiles

C) **Court of the Women** – Israeli women

1) In the Court of the Women were – 4 large rooms

- One room was for **fire wood** for the Altar and Sacrifices
- One room was for **men taking a vow** – Paul shaved his head
- One room for **questions and debate** with the religious leaders – Jesus at 12
- One room – **kept this salt from the Dead Sea**

Cold months – ground would freeze – they would through this salt on the temple courts – traction

A) It was trodden under the feet of men

B) **WE CAN LOSE OUR SALTINESS – THE WORLD WASHES OVER US**

C) When we act more like the world – than like Christ!

Jesus is not saying that if that happens (WHEN you lose your saltiness) **you lose your salvation** – **Saying you lose your impact**

A) Lose your ability to preserve, to enhance flavor, create thirst

B) **Luis Sanchez- Most antagonistic** - You made me want to cry – Such a bummer –

1) Blow our witness - lose our saltiness

C) **It can be hard to get it back** –

D) Truth be told - **More people will read our lives than will ever read a Bible!**

1) Scare you or Excite you? – FISHBOWL

E) **NOT A WEIGHT – BUT A PRIVILEGE! – EMBRACE IT**

You are salt and Light –

LIGHT OF THE WORLD – A city on a hill

A) Analogy they were familiar with ships coming in from the storm

B) **JESUS** was saying our lives can have a guiding influence to those who are in the storm.

1) Shine before them –

C) Light is meant to be seen – **DON'T COVER THE LAMP SHADE**

JESUS IS THE LIGHT - John 8:12

“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” ~

A) **WE ARE REFLECTIONS – Moon – HE IS SHINING THROUGH US**

B) **YOUNG BOY - Who are the Saints** – those who let the light shine in!

THE moon's light is diminished – when the World comes between the Sun and the Moon -

A) Our light – World - SON

B) Lunar Eclipse

1) Don't allow that

C) When **the things of the World wash over us** – and influence us more than the things of the Lord

D) When the world comes between you and Christ – **Light diminishes**

You alone are Salt – You alone are Light

A) **LET** your light shine - see good works –

B) Glorify your father in Heaven! - We exist for his Glory

C) **Let your light so shine – See good works** – glorify your father who is in Heaven

PRAYING ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY GOOD WORKS - How impact? Join us for prayer next week

Best way: Believers living as Salt and Light