

It's Time To Get Salty!
Matthew 5:13-16

I. "You are the salt of the earth."

- A. What does it mean?
 - 1. Does it mean that if people get too much of you their blood pressure goes up?
 - 2. To my daughters, someone is "salty" if they're grumpy or feisty.
- B. Salt is an amazingly important commodity.
 - 1. In the ancient world, it was so valuable it was sometimes used as currency.
 - 2. Salt was a major item traded between nations.
 - 3. Wars were sometimes fought over the control of salt.
- C. Three key characteristics
 - 1. It stimulates thirst.
 - (a) If you want someone to drink, give them something salty.
 - 2. It enhances flavor. Some foods taste so much better with salt.
 - (a) Steak, corn on the cob (butter and salt).
 - (b) Jesus could have said, "You are the butter of the earth (the butterball)."
 - (c) Then he would have had to do a sermon about taking offense.
 - (d) "Heaven knows, a civilized society is impossible without salt." Pliny
 - (e) My Dad would agree.
 - 3. It acts as a preservative. It prevents decay.
 - (a) It does that by drying up the water that bacteria needs to grow.
 - (b) That would have been very important for Galilean fishermen.
 - (c) It enabled them to dry fish and trade them.
- D. What is Jesus saying about our lives?
 - 1. Our lives should stimulate thirst for God.
 - (a) Be ready to give a reason for the hope you have.
 - (b) Hopeful people have joy and peace even in difficult times.
 - (c) The women of Iran.
 - 2. Our lives should enhance the flavor of life.
 - (a) Do you think encountering Jesus enhanced the flavor of life as he lived out the fruits of the Spirit? We are to be like him
 - 3. Our lives are to act as preservatives; keep society from rotting.
 - (a) We do that by living out the values God has given us.
- E. To do these things we need to be engaged.
 - 1. We need to have relationships, friendships, involvement.
 - 2. Salt actually could lose its saltiness in the Ancient Near East.

II. What are the qualities that create thirst, enhance flavor, prevent decay?

- A. The beatitudes highlight character qualities we are called to.
 - 1. Poor in spirit: acknowledge our need for grace.
 - 2. Mourn: our sin.
 - 3. Meekness: we are under the control of the Holy Spirit.
 - 4. Hunger and thirst for Jesus, who is righteousness.

- 5. Merciful (as people who have received mercy).
 - 6. Pure in heart: integrity; show on the outside same as on the inside (no games, no manipulation, people of truth)
 - 7. Peacemakers – not easily offended; gracious.
 - 8. Able to endure when persecuted – not becoming offended at God when it is hard to be a Christ follower.
- B. We are to engage our world filled up with the Spirit, like Jesus!
 - 1. We come with joy because we are loved.
 - 2. We come with our identity wrapped up in him.
 - C. When salt was stored it lost its saltiness.
 - 1. The salt needs to get out of storage; out of the saltshaker.
 - (a) We need to engage the world filled up and overflowing!

III. You are the light of the world! Let your light shine for the world to see!

- A. The world is a dark place because it is a fallen place.
 - 1. People of the world are blind, living in darkness.
 - (a) Jesus came as a light from heaven (John 1:4-5)
 - (b) The life (zoe) in him was our light.
 - (c) Through faith in the gospel his life is now in us!
 - (d) Now we have the life that gives light!
 - 2. God sends us into the world as lamps, to help people see.
- B. Two metaphors:
 - 1. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.
 - (a) His listeners are thinking of Jerusalem, a city on a hill.
 - (b) In old covenant times, God dwelt in Jerusalem.
 - (c) It was to be a light to the nations.
 - (d) It could not be hidden, nor should it be.
 - (e) A city is a community, people living together in the light.
 - (f) The Church is supposed to be that exemplary community.
 - 2. You don't light a lamp and then hide it under a bowl.
 - (a) In fact, the bowl would cause the light to be extinguished.
 - (b) God has not put his light in us and then hidden us away.
 - (c) He wants the light to shine forth, to help people to see.
 - (d) What do people need to see? God's goodness in us.
 - (e) So, God wants to display the light so people can see.
- C. The light of our good God is displayed when his people do good!
 - 1. Now, more than ever, we need to bring the Kingdom of God to the world.
 - (a) Look for opportunities to do good outside of the church building.
 - (b) In our neighborhoods.
 - (c) In our places of work.
 - (d) In school.
 - (e) In every day encounters (Pastor Jass at the hospital).
 - (f) Engage with people and know that you represent Christ in whatever you do wherever you do it.
 - (g) Develop relationships outside of your Christian circle of friends. Have support and accountability in place.
 - (h) Practice hospitality. Team up with other believers.
 - 2. Get out there and let your light shine!