Scripture Reading – Matthew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.
14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16 ESV





Matthew 5 13-16

Salt and Light





History of Salt

- As early as 6000 BC, salt was mined or extracted for use in multiple applications.
- The earliest Eruopean city, Solnitsata, in modern day Bulgaria was built around a salt mine.
- Used for seasoning food, preserving, trade, revenue, and healing.
- Was often a measure of the wealth and power of a culture or civilization.
- Source of survival, reason for war

Matthew 5:13-16

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  lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?
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  that they may see your good works and give glory
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Salt of the Earth

- What does Jesus mean that His disciples are the salt of the Earth?
  - Salt is a preservative.
    - We are to preserve and protect the Gospel of Christ
    - We are to stand up against moral corruption
    - We are to stand firm against outside influence that spoils
    - Do not add to, nor take away from the Word of God.
  - Do not allow anyone to spoil the Gospel of Christ or your faith in Him.
    - Easy to be influenced by society, friends, family, social media, etc…



Salty Food

- Salty foods make you thirsty.
- If we are truly salty for Jesus, others will hear and see and become thirsty for what makes us that way.

John 4:7-15

7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give
me a drink.” 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy
food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew,
ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no
dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift
of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would
have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” 11 The
woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the
well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater
than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself,
as did his sons and his livestock.” 13 Jesus said to her, “Everyone who
drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the
water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I
will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal
life.” 15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will
not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

John 4:7-15 ESV

Saltiness Leads to Thirst

- Like Jesus with the woman at the well, if we show our saltiness by the way we live, we will direct them to the everlasting well Jesus gave her.
- We can point them to the source of eternal life and salvation

Biblical Examples of Salt

- Leviticus 2 – Old Covenant required all grain offerings to be seasoned with salt.
- Numbers 18 – the part of offerings given to priests' families is described as "everlasting covenant of salt before the Lord"
- 2 Chronicles 13 – David's monarchy is described as an enduring kingdom from God through a "covenant of salt"
- 2 Kings 2:20-21 – Elisha puts salt into the spring at Jericho. The spring was unclean and bitter. By adding salt, Elisha purified the spring and removed impurities.

Salt Losing It's Saltiness?

- What does Jesus mean?
  - If it loses it's saltiness, it's good for nothing except to be thrown out and trampled.
  - It means, we must stay pure, preserved from outside influence.
  - We must stay the course
  - We must keep the faith.
  - If we lose our saltiness, we are like the shrub in the desert living in a "salt land where no one lives" as written in Jeremiah 17.
  - Without Jesus, there is no survival, no well of life, no saltiness.



Light of the World

- Jesus called His disciples to be the light of the world.

Ever Been In Complete Darkess?

- You can’t see anything
- How does it make you feel?
  - Anxious
  - Desperate
  - Afraid
  - Despair

In The Light



- Brings warmth
- Gives Hope
- Provides comfort
- Gives security

Lighthouse

- When we are the Light for others, we are like a lighthouse.
- Used for guides, regardless of timeframe
  - Bonfires on top of hills
  - Pharos of Alexandria
  - Roman lighthouses
  - Modern lighthouses



Walking in Darkness

- When someone is walking through life without Jesus, they are walking in darkness
- Without Jesus' light, the darkness soaks in, creating the despair and terror.
- We show Jesus' light by the way we walk and talk in our daily lives.
- Provide truth, faith, direction, and love to those who do not know Jesus
- Shown by our deeds and actions.

Illuminate the Path to Jesus

- Psalm 119:105
  - “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
- When we share the light of Jesus, we help to illuminate the path to Jesus.
  - When the path is illuminated, the dangers are easier to see.
    - See the fork in the road
    - The stone that makes us trip
    - Dangers that can stop us

It’s Not Our Light

- Like a lighthouse, it is not our light.
  - Have to have a source of fuel to create light.
  - Wood, coal, oil, gas, electricity…
- When we are the lamp on a stand, or the city on a hill, it is not our light we are shining.
  - Be humble
  - Glorify God
  - Keep shining and sharing the Light!

