

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

- I. Mark 16:15 - You are to go into all the World and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere.
 - A. **Can you imagine what a mind boggling statement this must have been to these eleven whining, hard, unbelieving men.**
 1. They didn't even have the faith to go on and now they are told to go into all the world.
 2. **They were very limited in where they could go.**
 - B. Lets face it what the Lord was telling them and us is impossible!
 1. **They couldn't do what the Lord told them to do in this passage of scripture and neither can you.**
 - a. It requires talents and resources that you don't possess.
 - b. **You are too limited - face it you don't have what it takes to get the job done.**
 2. The Lord seldom calls you to any task that you can perform acceptably without His help.
 - a. **When limited men hook up with an unlimited God anything is possible.**
Luke 18:27 - *"What man can't do, God can do."* (beck)
 - b. **The "Can Do" God will do it through the "Can't Do" man**
 - c. It's always the Lord's intention that when He calls you to some impossible task to accompany you. Matthew 28:19-20 - *"Go and I will go with you."*
 - d. **Your going engages His power, provision, and presence.**
 - e. Limiting what you can attempt for God to only those things you know you can accomplish requires no faith.
 - f. **Hudson Taylor once said: "There are three phases in most great tasks undertaken for God - Impossible - difficult - done.**
- C. Matthew 9:35-38 - We need to go so that we might see, we need to see so that we might feel, and we need to feel so that we might pray, and we need to pray so that the Lord of the Harvest will send out workers.
- I. Matthew 5:13 - As the "Salt of the Earth" you have four main functions.
 - A. Salt adds Flavor
 1. **In Genesis 1 when God is making the world He states five times that His creation was good and when He was finished He said it was very good.**

- a. Then sin set in and creation started decaying.
- b. The Lord declared that the world needed salt so he sent His son into the world.**
- c. The reason God continues to deal with the world in Grace & Mercy instead of wrath & Judgement is because Jesus makes the world tolerable to God.
- d. The salt is God's love. The dispenser was Jesus Christ. He came to dispense God's love on people's lives which makes them tolerable.**
- e. Jesus is now in Heaven but He has entrusted the salt of God's love to some new salt shakers (us) and now it is our task to dispense it.

John 17:18 - *"As you did send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."*

- 2. We dispense our salt by getting involved in non-christians lives.
 - a. Your presence in a non-christians life make a difference. Because of you God will continue to deal with them in mercy and grace.**
 - b. Our lives are shaped by those who love us - and by those who refuse to love us.
- 3. **Proverbs 24:10-12.** - **Verse 10** (NAB) - *"If you remain indifferent in time of adversity, your strength will depart from you."*
 - a. This passage condemns as criminal the non-interposition of the strong on behalf of the weak and distressed.
 - b. We must consider how much actual wrong-doing on the part of some is chargeable to the not-doing of others.**
- 4. The main way that we dispense salt of people's lives is through prayer.
 - a. We are not only to make God known to people we are to make people known to God.**
 - 1) Proverbs 28:9 - *"If you do not obey the law, God will find your prayers too hateful to hear."* TEV
 - 2) **John 9:31** - *"We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him."*
 - 3) Job 35:12 - *"There they cry out, but He does not answer because of the pride of evil men."*
 - 4) **Psalm 66:18** - *"If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear."*
 - 5) Proverbs 15:29 - *"The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous"*
 - b. Since God does not hear the prayer of sinners than we need to become their voice through intercessory Prayer.**
 - c. Ezekiel 22:29-31 - God is looking for a man to stand in the gap and build up the hedge.

- 1) **Isaiah 59:16** - *“And He saw that there was no man, and was astonished that there was no one to intercede.”*
- 2) **Isaiah 63:5** - *“And I looked, and there was no one to help, and I was astonished and there was no one to uphold.”*
- 3) **Exodus 32:32** - *“But now, if Thou wilt, forgive their sin-- and if not, please blot me out from Thy book which Thou hast written!”*
- 4) **Psalms 106:23** - *“He said that He would destroy them, had not Moses His chosen one stood in the breach before Him, to turn away His wrath from destroying them.”*

d. Intercessory prayer is where you stand between God’s wrath and man’s sin. Which means if God decides to dispense His wrath it will hit you first.

B. Salt restrains corruption and decay.

1. The process of sin’s corruption is at work in every aspect in our world. As salt we hold the corruption in check long enough for God’s purposes to be worked out.

Sin is progressive - James 1:15, *“Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”*

2. How do we accomplish this? By becoming their friends.

a. “John came in the strictest austerity (harsh discipline) and people say, ‘He’s crazy’ then the Son of Man came, enjoying life and people say, look, a drunkard and a glutton - the bosom-friend of the tax-collector and the sinner. Ah, well, wisdom stands or falls by her results.” Matthew 11:19 (JBP)

Jerry Furlow - Boston - Rob Knuck - Bowling Team - Softball Team - Jim’s Gulf Ginger & David - Worked for Funeral Home - Visited couples with still borns

- b. Our friendship will convict them of their sin and begin to hold their corruption in check.

c. All sinners need a godly influence in their lives.

C. Salt stimulates hunger and thirst

1. **Our lives should cause others to hunger and thirst after God**

1 Peter 3:15 - *“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” NIV*

2. **Our speech should cause others to hunger and thirst after God.**

Col 4:6 - *“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” NIV*

D. Salt cleanses.

1. Your saltiness will eventually become painful but it will also bring cleansing.
2. **When it does that is the time to press in and not be driven out.**