



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(PART 1 of 4)

MARCH 6, 2023

MATTHEW 5:13 NKJV – (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.

Sure, good ole’ table salt is the key to a tasty French fry, but the importance of salt goes far beyond the dinner table. I went into a grocery store one day and the store was very clean and the prices were pretty low, but the customer service was really lacking. That prompt me to refer to the above passage immediately. I watched as an elderly lady was treated rudely not only by the attendant, but by management as well. She didn’t do anything wrong but asked for assistance. I thought to myself, great prices but bad service. A Christian man went before management and addressed the importance of demonstrating the example God has called us to be. The manager listened and immediately changed their perspective.

Jesus used the concepts of salt and light several different times to refer to the role of His followers in the world. One example is found in **Matthew 5:13**: “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.” Salt had two purposes in the Middle East of the first century. Because of the lack of refrigeration, salt was used to preserve food, especially meat, which would quickly spoil in the desert environment. Believers in Christ are preservatives to the world, preserving it from the evil inherent in the society of ungodly men whose unredeemed natures are corrupted by sin (**Psalm 14:3; Romans 8:8**).

Second, salt was used then, as now, as a flavor enhancer. In the same way that salt enhances the flavor of the food it seasons, the followers of Christ stand out as those who “enhance” the flavor of life in this world. Christians, living under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in obedience to Christ, will inevitably influence the world for good, as salt has a positive influence on the flavor of the food it seasons. Where there is strife, we are to be peacemakers; where there is sorrow, we are to be the ministers of Christ, binding up wounds, and where there is hatred, we are to exemplify the love of God in Christ, returning good for evil (**Luke 6:35**).

SCRIPTURE READING: LEVITICUS 2:13

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Salt, when dissolved in water, may disappear, but it does not cease to exist.