

“Salt of the Earth”

Matt. 5:13-16

Introduction

- I. In the first century, salt was a very expensive thing to possess.
- II. It was not usually pure in the region of Palestine, but rather mixed with different impurities.
- III. Salt was very valuable, and was used for payment at times (cf. salary).
- IV. Let us notice some characteristics and uses of salt, and then make application.

Discussion

- I. Salt helps to preserve.
 - A. We might not think about it much, but it was not that long ago that man did not have freezers and refrigerators.
 - B. In order to preserve foods, salt was rubbed on them.
 - C. Christians are “preserving” agents in a world of sin.
 - D. What would the world truly be like without godly people?
 1. Psalm 9:17
 2. Noah (Gen. 6:8)
 3. Ten righteous souls could have saved Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:32).
 - E. Christians are not supposed to live in isolation, but rather have an impact in the places that they live (Matt. 5:13-16).
- II. Salt will irritate.
 - A. Usually, salt does not cause a wound, but rather it emphasizes the wound.
 - B. Christians can seem irritating to those living in sin.
 1. Some do not want to hear the Word of God because of its power (Heb. 4:12).
 2. If Christians did not upset the world, then why would the world persecute them (Matt. 5:11-12).
 - C. Christians are not “the sugar of the earth”.
 1. Remember Jesus (Matt. 23:25-26).
 2. Remember John (Matt. 14:3-4).
 3. Remember Stephen (Acts 7:51-53).
- III. Salt causes thirst.
 - A. The godly help the world see that there is a better way of life.
 - B. Christians should point others to the source of spiritual hydration (John 4:7-15; Rev. 22:17).
 - C. If only the world thirsted after righteousness (Matt. 5:6).
- IV. Salt adds flavor.
 - A. Many foods would be bland and unpleasing without salt.
 - B. When salt no longer adds flavor, it becomes worthless (Luke 14:34-35).
 - C. Our very words are to be “seasoned with salt” (Col. 4:6).
 - D. Christians must be diligent not to lose their “saltiness” (James 1:25; Jude 22-23).

Conclusion

- I. The Bible has much to say about salt and its value.
- II. We should strive to make sure that we living as “the salt of the earth”