

You Are Salt and Light
Sermon February 9, 2020

Jesus said to His disciples, and now today says to us, His disciples in 2020, that we ARE “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world.” What did Jesus mean by you ARE “Salt and Light”? Being salt and light is not optional. Jesus did not say you can be ... or you have the potential to be ... He said YOU ARE.

Everyone who accepted Christ as Saviour, and is born again, feels the urge to be Jesus’ disciple and to live and act as the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

But, why salt? Salt of the Earth?

In Jesus’ time, the value and the importance of salt were high. Roman soldiers received their wages in salt. The Greeks considered salt to be divine. The Hebrew Law required that all offerings presented by the Israelites had to be sprinkled with salt. (Lev. 2:13) In our world, salt is not nearly as important, but the mandate that Jesus gave to his first disciples is still relevant and applicable to all of us, as we are His followers today.

What are the characteristics of salt that caused the Lord to use it in this context?

Neither the disciples and their families, nor Jesus and his parents, had a refrigerator. They used salt to preserve food, especially meat. After the fresh fish was salted, it could be safely stored and then used when needed. Believers in Christ are preservatives to the world, preserved to not decay by sin.

When Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth, Jesus means that we, His disciples, have to add eternal teaching to the world, serving preservatives for people's spirit.

Second, salt was used then, as now, as a flavour enhancer. In the same way that salt enhances the flavour of the food it seasons, the followers of Christ stand out as those who enhance the flavour 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 flavour of the food it seasons. As salt adds **flavour** to our food, we, as Christians, have to add divine flavour to the world.

We have an incredible privilege to be the salt of the earth, but Jesus gave us a warning. “But if the salt loses its taste, how would its saltiness be restored?

It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men.” (Matthew 5:13b) Jesus did not say that we can lose our salvation. He said that, if we are not careful enough to obey Jesus in everything, we can lose our faith, our spiritual strength, and our call might get weaker, and in this way, we can lose our saltiness.

We are the Light of the World.

Jesus tells us, His disciples that We ARE the light of the world. We have to act as Light in the darkness. As “light” we are in this world to illuminate, and to make things visible. As we worship God with pure hearts, as we love others with unconditional love as God loves us, we are shining lights. We have to know that we are not providing our energy to create light. We are not giving OUR light, but we are reflecting Jesus, as the Light of the world.

In Philippians 2:15, the apostle Paul says, “Believers, you are to shine as light in the world”, like lighthouses around the coasts, to show the way to those who are in the darkness, to lead them and to bring them safely to the other shore, to Heaven. With our words and actions, our responsibility is to direct people to a safe harbour. Every day, we are surrounded by people groping around in the darkness, separated from God, and for this they are lost. You and I, as Christ’s followers, HAVE to shine, that those who looked on us might find Jesus and “glorify your Father who is in heaven” We have to provide hope and guidance for those who lost their direction and their hope. God wants to use your life as a lighthouse, to show the way to Him.

If you are not salt and light yet, then this time is a perfect time to turn to the Lord and ask Him to make you salt and light. This has to be your role, your commission. “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Every Christian is called by God to be an influence on the world as salt and light. Both salt and light have an effect around them. As God's chosen people, we possess the Word of God, and we are salt and light in the world. We have to have a spiritual impact on those around us. Now, Jesus is sending us out into our world to preach the Love of God, repentance and our Lord Jesus, who will come back very soon to judge the spiritually living and the dead.

This is OUR mandate. The mandate for you and me and for all Christians, to spread the gospel of Christ to everyone. We are to do as much good in the name of Christ as we can, and we are to share the light of the gospel with as many as we can. This is more than just a command: this is also a wonderful privilege. Christ offers eternal life as an incomparable gift to us. May you,

too, experience that sharing the good news of Jesus' gift with others is one of the greatest joys of the Christian life. Amen