

Salt of the earth

I recently read an article in the afa Journal about salt and light. We all are very familiar with salt. We use it every day, practically everything we eat contains salt. But what did Jesus mean when he said **“you are the salt of the earth”**? Matthew 5: 13-16 records this verse when Jesus spoke at sermon on the mount.

Salt was used for many things in the days of Jesus on earth. Salt was used as a preservative then and in my time as a child growing up and it still is. If you had no refrigeration (other than an ice box) and if you are from the south you may recall using it to preserve meat that was stored in the smokehouse for the winter.

We being, the you, as Jesus spoke in Matthew 5, are to be the salt of the earth. As salt, we are to preserve what we inherited from Christ through no works of our own. Believers in Christ are preservatives of the world, preserving it from the evil inherent in the society of ungodly men whose unredeemed natures are corrupted by sin (Psalm 14:3 **“All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. Romans 8:8 and those who are in the flesh [living a life that caters to sinful appetites and impulses] cannot please God.”**

Does that sound familiar in today’s world? The sin and corruption of ungodly men are the headlines of today’s society right here in the good ole USA. So what can we as Christians do to preserve what we inherited from Christ?

First, what is this inheritance that Jesus spoke of? Peter explained it this way- (1 Peter 1: 3-5) **“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”** In short, as Christians our inheritance is everlasting life in heaven.

Secondly, how do we preserve this inheritance to the world? In simple terms we serve God by following the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Why did Jesus come into this world? Mark 10: 45 says, **“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

Jesus taught us to love thy Father, and thy neighbor, Matthew 22:37-39.

37 Jesus replied: **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”**[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: **“Love your neighbor as yourself.”**

If the people of this world would follow these two commandments alone it would change the total landscape of society. God taught us the laws through Moses and He taught us love through Jesus.

Our commitment as Christians is basically to serve God, how do we do that? As I said before and as Jesus told us by being the salt of the earth and preserving the inheritance of Salvation and everlasting life.

How do we preserve it? By being disciples of Jesus, In John 13:15, Jesus sets an example for us to follow. After washing His disciples' feet — an act of love, humility, and service — He encourages us to follow His lead and serve one another.

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you," Jesus says.

Jesus, the Son of God, the Most High King, Lord of Lords, never placed himself in a position above others. He led by serving, and He loved by serving. He washed feet. He fed thousands. He walked to visit and heal the sick and dead. He stopped to touch and heal a sick woman. He spent time with those no one else cared to spend time with. Jesus lived a life of humility. Jesus showed us that serving others and humility go hand in hand.

The apostle Paul put it this way in Philippians 2: 1-5 **"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus".**

From all of what has been said here about being the "salt of the earth" what sticks in my mind more than anything else is verse 5 of the above scripture, **"In your relationship with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."**

As you walk with Jesus in this lifetime in any given circumstance before you act or speak ask yourself, what would Jesus do and pray a silent prayer about it.

In the name of Jesus Christ.

Rob (we can talk about light the next time)

