

“Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men.” Matthew 5:13

BEING SALTY SALT

by Craig Marlatt

How many times have you read this verse or heard a sermon preached from it in your lifetime? I daresay if you've been a Christian for some years you've probably come into contact with this verse many, many times, but has it ever grabbed your heart? Have you ever asked yourself how it may apply to your life? Have you ever wondered at what point salt loses its savour, and how you can tell whether or not you've lost yours?

Maybe you've never really thought about it until now, but it's very important that you do because how you see your Christian life in respect to this verse is of utmost importance to you if you desire to live for, and be useful to, the Lord Jesus Christ. Why? Because salt without savour is not good for anything but “ . . .to be cast out and trodden under foot of men”.

A few years ago after finishing an evangelistic meeting where I was the speaker, a young man approached me and asked if he could speak with me for a moment. His clothing was very ragged and dirty and I could tell that he had not bathed in quite some time. As we sat and talked he commented on how much he had enjoyed the message that morning and that he too believed in Jesus and was sharing the message of God's love with others. I asked him a few questions about his walk with the Lord and shared some concerns that I had about the validity of his commitment in lieu of the way he was living (apparently he didn't have any convictions at all about holding down a job, or begging for food and, if I recall correctly, he was still smoking marijuana on occasion). To him, faith in Jesus was merely “believing” and giving intellectual assent to the gospel. It did not command righteousness or holy living, neither did it bring conviction concerning personal responsibility. As we talked I shared with him a few passages of scripture concerning his condition, but he was not convinced and soon went his way, a happy street urchin, doing his thing for Jesus, but having no power over sin . . . To me he seemed like salt that had no savour.

On another occasion during that same time period, I took some of my co-workers out to go witnessing at one of the local saloons near to our ministry headquarters. As we were witnessing to the customers who were leaving the place I noticed a young lady coming out who was very scantily dressed for the occasion. As she passed me I asked her if she was making any preparation for eternity and made an invitation for her to consider Jesus and the price that He had paid for her sin. With great earnestness she looked at me and said, “Oh I'm a Christian. I even teach children's Sunday school at my church.” I asked her if she thought Jesus approved of her lifestyle and she assured me that He did, and rushed off to join her awaiting friends. Inside of me I cringed, knowing that the very next morning she would be teaching little children how to live a “Christian” life. . . She was salt that had no savour.

Today the world is desperate for salty salt. Not methods and principles, but genuine Christianity that refuses to settle for the standards that the world sets. Christians

who are seeking God's face and not only His hand. If our Christianity has no power over sin what makes us so sure that the world wants what we have? If we profess Christ and still seek the pleasures and things that the world is after, then how is our life different from those who don't know Christ? If our Christianity does not convict us of our own lukewarmness, then how will it do so for others? If we are salt with no savour, we will not only fail in our mission to bring others to Christ, but it is very likely that we ourselves will be "...*cast out and trodden under foot of men*".

It is time to seek the Lord! We must repent of our own self seeking and vain glory and call upon the God of heaven to remove the leaven of the world from our hearts, and ask Him to open up our eyes and show us the way of truth.

It is my sincere prayer that many Christians will begin to open their hearts and lives to the cry of repentance that is coming from the throne of God. That we will not settle for the status quo of contemporary Christianity but will want more and be willing to lay down our lives to obtain it. I'm not talking about miracles, or more signs and wonders, or more charismatic meetings to pump up our spiritual balloons, but I'm talking about more of God. More of the Holy Spirit in our lives to bring us to the place where God can use us to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement.

Are you willing? Do you care more about what people think than you do about what God says? If so then you need to repent and seek the Lord's forgiveness. If your life is salt that has no savour, then cry out to God and He will meet you where you are and renew and restore your life. There's no time to wait or to put it off. Don't let Satan convince you that all is well. He loves nothing more than to keep Christians bound to a lukewarm and complacent lifestyle.

Be salted! Be filled with the Spirit. You are the salt of the earth. Let Him who has called you to be salt be pleased with the savour of your life.

* Additional Scriptures: Matthew 25:31-46; Isaiah 1:10-28; Isaiah 58; Revelation 3:14-22