

**Title:** Useless Salt  
**Scripture:** Luke: 14:34-35  
**Series:** Bilingual Sermon

1. Introduction:

- a. Beloved, we have spent the last three sermons discussing what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.
  - i. We have seen that a nominal following of Jesus is not true discipleship. This type of following does not impress our Lord.
    1. We know this because in our previous sermons we saw Jesus confront the great crowd that was following Him with this very truth.
- b. It was during this confrontation that Jesus taught that Christian discipleship has to have two vital criteria:
  - i. The first criteria teaches us that Christian discipleship loves Jesus more than any other thing or relationship in this world. Christ becomes the preeminent center of the Christian's life. Christ's glory becomes the aim of genuine Christianity.
    1. Jesus teaches that, if this is not true of the individual, then that individual's confession is false.
  - ii. The second criteria teaches us that Christian discipleship involves a willingness to follow Jesus. The commitment must be total. Christians are to pick up their cross and follow Jesus to the place of execution. This willingness to die is

both figurative and literal. The genuine disciple is not ashamed to be the offscouring of the world.

1. Jesus teaches that if this is not also true of the individual, then that individual's confession is false.
- c. With two follow-up parables, Jesus teaches that understanding the cost of discipleship is of the utmost importance.
- i. In the first parable featuring the builder of a tower, we are told to count the cost of starting a lifelong journey of discipleship.
    1. We are told quite clearly that following Jesus comes at a costly price.
  - ii. In the second parable featuring a king under imminent attack, we are told to make peace with the coming King as quickly as possible. We must surrender to Christ's demands in humble repentance. This surrendering must be done now, while there is time for repentance. We learn that following Christ comes at a cost, but not following Him comes at an even greater cost. It comes with the loss of eternity!
- d. As we have studied, we must evaluate our discipleship. No other form of discipleship but the one advanced by Jesus, in this passage, is permitted. We cannot redefine discipleship to make it easier to follow Christ. This type of redefinition leads to spiritual ruin.
- e. We have also spent much time reading and reading the passage in Matthew, which condemns false disciples.

This passage clearly and unequivocally demonstrates the terrible fate that awaits such men.

- i. **Matthew 7:21-23** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (22) On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ (23) And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’
- ii. Beloved, by the grace of God, please consider the things taught up to this point. Are you a disciple? How do you know?
- f. Today we learn that in our Christian life we are not to trouble ourselves with what men say about us, and what they do to us, but we are only to take care to live in holiness by obedience to God’s word. A disciple is tied to Christ and no other. Christ’s purpose becomes our purpose. His mission becomes our mission.
  - i. We are taught that Christians have an affirmative duty when it comes to the gospel. We are to promote growth in a spiritually barren and unfruitful world.
  - ii. We are taught that Christians must fulfill this purpose above all costs.

2. Verse 34: The Needfulness of Good Salt: “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?”

- a. In this passage, we need to start by considering salt. **Salt**, as we know, has many characteristics. Here we consider salt not as the table salt that we are used to but as salt added to fertilizer to cause growth. Notice this hermeneutical point. When Christ speaks of salt here and in other places in the Gospels, He speaks about it in conjunction with the earth, soil, and fertilizer (manure).
- i. The interpretation that makes this passage about flavor and preservation misses the point of all the parallel passages. Jesus is calling the Christian to prepare the land for growth by the preaching and living of the Gospel. He is calling us to fertilize this world with Gospel preaching.
- b. **Salt is good:** the doctrine, which we profess as Christians, is **good**. The gospel is what has transformed us and has made us children of God. Because of the precious gospel, we are the salt that this world needs. We are to be salt ourselves—seasoned with the gospel, with the salt of grace.
- i. This is why the genuine Disciples of Christ are called salt in **Matthew 5:13** “You are the salt of the earth...
    1. If it were not for the Christian, the earth would be a barren place of spiritual unrighteousness. This world would be a continuous offense to the pure and holy God: an unfruitful wasteland.
    2. What great blessings Christians are to this world. Humankind, lying in ignorance and wickedness, are unable to grow up into

Christ; but Christ sends forth his disciples, by their lives and doctrines, to fertilize the world with the knowledge and grace that comes from the Gospel, and to render it acceptable to God by the preaching of Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. This is why Christ Himself disperses us into the whole lump of humanity. We have to have His gospel in us take effect and make a difference. We have to have His gospel promote growth into spiritual matters dealing with eternal life.

a. This salt dispersed does a wondrous work. This work is evident throughout history and it is evident in your lives as dear children of the highest God.

3. We understand therefore that **Salt** must be used for it to be effective:

a. Salt is a blessing when it remains truly salt.

b. Salt must be sprinkled throughout the land of the unbelievers.

c. We must see it as our mission to act as a catalyst for gospel ministry and gospel growth. As far as we are salty, this world will benefit and has benefited tremendously.

d. An incredible warning is issued for our consideration...**but if salt has lost its taste:**

i. Beloved, empty religion is not a fertilizer. It does nothing to cause sinners to come to Christ.

e. If we who are to preach the gospel to others are found to be flat and unusable, devoid of spiritual life, and

zeal for the gospel then we lose the very purpose of our Christianity.

- i. We must be the salt that we are called to be.
- ii. This is why we must have Christ as preeminent in all things. We must view this world through the eyes of Christ. Our hearts of compassion must be moved as His heart was moved. We call sinners to repentance as Jesus did.
  1. **Matthew 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

f. Our verse ends with a probing question...**how shall its saltiness be restored:**

- i. The point that Jesus is making is a clear and somber one. Salt, as a fertilizer, is the remedy for the spiritual deadness of this world, but there is no remedy for flat salt.
- ii. If we lose our distinctiveness, there is no hope.
  1. To Timothy Paul says the following in **2 Timothy 1:13-14** Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (14) By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.
    - a. We are to be zealous in guarding that which has been entrusted to us!

4. Verse 35: The Worthlessness of Flat Salt: It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

a. **It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile:**

i. A Christian that is no longer salty becomes unprofitable: He is, therefore, good for nothing. A Christian that does not actively fulfill his purpose is a wicked thing to behold.

1. How can this person say that he loves the Lord? He is unconcerned with the gospel and the rescuing of souls. The plight of the sinner leaves his emotions unmoved. He is unconcerned with the very purpose of Christ.

a. Beloved, we know that Jesus was salt. We learn in **1 Timothy 1:15(A)** The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...

b. Consider the heart of Paul in **1 Corinthians 9:22(B)** ...I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.

2. When Christ states that the bland salt is of **no use either for the soil or for the manure pile**, He is stating that such an individual is doomed to ruin and rejection because he does not fulfill the very purpose of gospel ministry.

a. Beloved, how concerned are you with the unbeliever?

b. Are you actively promoting gospel growth through your life and preaching?

b. **It is thrown away:** This person shall be cast out; expelled from the church and the communion of the faithful. God does not accept such an individual.

i. Beloved, what we are talking about today is serious.

1. Christ speaks of such individuals as worthy of being thrown away!

c. **He who has ears to hear, let him hear:**

i. Our passage ends with a warning.

ii. Do you have a spiritual ear to hear?

1. **Hear** then what the Spirit is telling us this morning. Take this warning to heart.

2. To walk as a disciple you must be the Salt of the Earth! You must have concern and love for the sinner! You must preach the gospel that can save them!

5. **Quote by C.H. Spurgeon:** If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for.

a. **Matthew 5:13** You are the salt of the earth...

6. Benediction:

a. **2 Corinthians 5:18-21** All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us

the ministry of reconciliation; (19) that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (20) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (21) For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Public Reading of the Scriptures**  
**Matthew 5:13-16**