

Week 1: STAY SALTY

“You are the salt of the earth.” – Jesus

Theme: Jesus calls his disciples into a life of no compromise, actively living out and expressing faith into the world.

ICEBREAKER:

There are people who make a spiritual impression on our lives. They are like a living Bible that people read by seeing their lives.

- Who has been life a Bible for you, showing in their lives what God is like? What did that person do that showed God to you?

You may be the only Bible someone will read.

QUOTE: John Stott

What possible influence could the people described in the Beatitudes exert in this hard, tough world? What lasting good can the poor and the meek do, the mourners and the merciful, those who seek peace and not war? Would they not be overwhelmed by the flood of Evil? What can they accomplish, whose only passion is righteousness. And whose only weapon is purity of heart? Are not such people too feeble to achieve anything? Jesus does not share this skepticism, as this passage demonstrates. He expects us to have a profound influence on those around us.

Read Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

- What relationship do you see between the beatitudes and our role as salt and light in society?

- What positive qualities of Salt and light do you think Jesus has in his mind as he spoke these words?

Quote: William Barclay

“You are the salt of the earth.” When Jesus said this, he provided us with an expression which has become the greatest compliment that can be paid to anyone. When we wish to stress someone solid worth and usefulness, we say that they are the salt of the earth.

- What is the common understanding of a person who is “salt of the earth?”
- Who are some you consider to be “salt of the earth” people and how do they display that in their lives?

Read Matthew 5: 13, Luke 14: 34-35

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet... Now, salt is good, but if salt should lose its taste, how will it be made salty? It isn’t fit for the soil or for the manure pile; they throw it out. Let anyone who has ears to hear listen.

Sermon Discussion:

- What were some of the qualities of salt that were discussed in the sermon?
- What might these qualities say about the life of a follower of Jesus in our world?
- How do these qualities encourage and challenge you to stay salty?

Quote: John Stott

God has established certain institutions in His common grace, which curb our selfish tendencies and prevent society from slipping into anarchy. Chief among these are the state (with its authority to frame and enforce laws) and the home, (including marriage and family life). These exert A wholesome influence in the community. Nevertheless, God intends the most powerful of all restraints within sinful society to be his own redeemed, regenerate and righteous people. The disciples are to be a moral disinfectant in a world where moral standards are low, constantly changing, or nonexistent.

- Where do you see the need for these qualities of salt in your life, in our community, and our world?
- How are the people of God to live out being salt “in a world where moral standards are low, constantly changing, or nonexistent?”
- What are some practical ways you can function as salt where you live and work?

Quote: John Stott**“If the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty?”**

Strictly speaking, salt can never lose its saltiness, but what was popularly called salt in Jesus time was not always salt. Salt was collected from the Dead Sea, but often the white powder that has collected, while containing some sodium chloride, also contained dust and sand. This white powder looked like salt and was called salt, but neither acted or tasted like salt.

- What might cause Christians to lose their saltiness?
- What are some things that we might mix into our faith, that make us lose our saltiness?
- What are some things in your own life, that causes you to lose your saltiness?

Matthew 5:13, Luke 14:35

It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet....It isn't fit for the soil or for the manure pile; they throw it out.

- Why does Jesus speak so harshly against losing our saltiness?
- How does the loss of saltiness effect our Christian witness in the world? How have you seen that displayed both worldwide and in your own life?

Application: Stay Salty: "You are the salt of the earth."

- How can you exhibit the qualities of spiritual salt in your life?
- What are some ways to not lose your saltiness?
- How can remembering and reflecting on the beatitudes help you stay salty?

Closing Prayer:

Jesus, you called me to be the salt of the earth. Help me to not lose the quality taste of being your disciple? Show me where I have lost my saltiness and help me to be made salty, again, so that I can be a faithful follower of you. Amen.