**Salt of the Earth**

**Matt. 5.13**

**Introduction:**

 A. One of Jesus’ many illustrations.

 B. Salt expensive in New Testament times.

 1. Sometimes used to pay for labor – “Not worth his salt.”

 2. “Salary” from same root word as “salt.”

 C. Let us look at some of the powers of salt.

**Discussion:**

 **I. Preserving Power**

 A. A food preservative: Meat, fish, some vegetables before refrigeration.

 B. Christians a preserving force on the earth.

 1. Without godly people the world is doomed (Psa. 9:17; Prov. 14:34; Amos 9:8)

 a. Noah and his family saved world.

 b. Ten righteous souls would have saved Sodom and Gomorrah.

 C. Close relationship between salt and meat (necessary) – few inches apart no good

 1. Ancient monks did not understand Lord’s teaching.

 2. Not to isolate from people, but teach and influence them.

 **II. Irritating Power**

 A. Salt in a cut, sore, or wound.

 B. Word of God sometimes does good when it irritates (Heb. 4:12).

 C. Christians, by teaching and life, irritate folks.

 1. Stirs up persecution (Matt. 5:11-12).

 2. Not real cause of persecution, but emphasizes sore spot already there.

 D. Jesus did not say, “Ye are the sugar, honey, or sweetness of world.

 1. Today many want to emphasize only sugar - love.

 2. Need love, but emphasizing it all the time is not way of Christ.

 a. Jesus’ rebuke of the Pharisees (Matt 23:25-26)

 b. John the Baptist’s rebuke of Herod (Matt. 14:3-4).

 c. Stephen’s rebuke of Jews (Acts 7:51-53)

 d. Paul often irritated folks.

 **III. Thirsting Power**

 A. Eating salty food makes us thirsty.

 B. Christian, by teaching and life, make others thirst for word of God.

 1. Cause others to want to be free from sin.

 2. Cause others to want to be in God’s family.

 3. Cause others to want to have peace of mind.

 4. Cause others to hope for life beyond the grave.

 5. Certain folks do everything to hinder another from attending.

 a. Offer other things to do, turn off alarm, get in the shower, etc

 b. Over time their heart can soften (with solid consistency of Christian)

 **IV. Flavoring Power**

 A. Many foods bland without salt – missed when not present.

 B. Salt can lose flavor by elements, moisture or impurities.

 1. Worthless salt was put on pathways (Luke 14:34-35).

 2. As salt we will be tested (Mk. 9:49-50)

 a. Must have salt within us.

 b. Our speech seasoned with salt (Col. 4:6).

 C. Many ways to lose our saltiness.

 1. Contaminated by world (Jas. 1:27; Jude 22, 23)

 2. By becoming lukewarm, watered-down.

**Conclusion:**

 **A. Song, “What the world needs now is love, sweet love.”**

 **B. Really, what the world needs is salt, pure salt.**

 **C. If not a Christian, become one – if lost saltiness renew yourself now.**