

Sermon on the Mount Part 5
“Salt” Matthew 5:13

I. How did the church become “Salt”?

- Let’s first look to creation. How did real salt become salt? It was simply by the creative power of God Almighty as described in the book of Genesis!
- How did you personally become salt? By emptying yourself of yourself putting your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross.
- How did the church become salt? By the empowering of the Holy Spirit at the day of Pentecost in Acts 2
- In short salt became salt simply by the power of God! It is not because of our own best efforts!

II. How did we get here?

- I believe anytime a problem is identified the only way to really have change is to ask the question how did we get here and where does God want us to go?
- Here are 5 possible ways that led the church to lose its Saltiness
 - **Undo amount of focus on Width and not Depth** (In this case I am not talking about numbers)
 - We are consumed with gain and proclamation of information.
 - The reality is we have more information than real transformation
 - We need good old fashioned obedience rather than information.
 - **There is an absolute degeneration of real/authentic community in our culture**
 - “Happy Plastic People”
 - We need both encouragement and rebuking from those we trust in our lives.
 - When we are out of line we need a good old fashioned rebuking.
 - We respond to rebuking by beating ourselves up
 - We immediately fight back and even use scripture against the person (i.e. get the plank out of your eye) **If I have an enemy to fight against then I don’t fight the enemy in me!**
 - Or we can come into humble submission and ask for Holy Spirit led change.
 - **Lack of submission to authority**
 - The church has been created so that the spiritually strong can encourage, strengthen, and rebuke those who are spiritually weak.
 - Unfortunately the church today has become a place where people go to feel better about them self.
 - The church sings some songs, hear a feel good message about how good we are, then we go home. There is no real transformation in that.
 - Churches across the board have seen a decline in membership today because there is simply a lack of commitment to place ourselves under authority.
 - People are leaving the back door open!
 - **Over emphasis on being the Light**
 - By this I simply mean success is too often measured by how big the building or congregation is.
 - Because the physical building and numbers are the measure of success today, pastors are actually taught what to say and do as well as not what to say or do if they want church growth.
 - We can’t be salt without being light. We simply need the correct view of being the light which we will talk about next week.
 - **We live in a culture built on speed**
 - The reality is that spiritual growth and depth happens at a crawl. (i.e. God help me with patience and help me now)
 - In short we are looking for quick fixes to deep spiritual growth.
 - People spend a lifetime wrecking their lives and they want to give God 3 months to help them out.

Closing-

- Without transformation Salt has lost its Saltiness and the light is bland at best!
- Ask yourselves the following questions
 - Where do I need to transform?
 - Where did I walk away too soon and did not give His chance to work?
 - Where am I being disobedient and need to come under submission so I can be Salty?

