WOW: Word Of the Week

Salty

June 17, 2026

When I was a boy, "salty" speech was generally considered inappropriate for youthful ears. Yet Paul urged the Colossians to season their speech with salt – "salty speech." Early in his ministry, in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5), Jesus challenged the people to be salt in the world. In Luke 14, Jesus describes authentic discipleship and warns about salt that quits being salty. Salt can lose its saltiness. Salt can become tasteless. When that happens, it is good for nothing. Even worse, Jesus says the saltiness can never be restored.

In Luke 14, Jesus is speaking to the crowds about the cost of discipleship. Many were willing to be "group followers." Jesus is making a point. There is a difference between being a group follower and being a committed individual discipleship. It is one thing to be a church member (following as part of a group) and another thing to be individually a committed follower.

Think. Apply. How many churches are piling up huge amounts of tasteless salt? You have seen it, have you not? Here is a small group of Christians who are doing much with little. A handful of disciples (no more than a few dozen) are fully committed and accomplishing amazing things. On the other hand, here is a large church whose attendance is several hundred. But the church is collectively a disappointment, doing little with much.

There is no value in piling up huge amounts of tasteless salt.

This is not about churches. This is about us – as individuals. More accurately, this is about you and me. Am I a group follower? Is my loyalty to the group or to the leader? (The disciples had the same problem in the context of Luke, "he is not one of us.")

Can we hear? Can we apply? What do you think about the picture of churches piling up lots of useless "unsalty salt?" What do you think about Jesus' observation that saltiness cannot be recaptured.

Here is a call for churches to reconsider priorities. But more to the point, here is a call for you and for me to evaluate our own lives. Am I salty? Am I a salty disciple of Jesus? Just wondering….