

Are You Salty?

By Bob Young

Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. (Luke 14:34-35)

Jesus used figures of speech, metaphors and parables to communicate principles of the Kingdom of God. In the Sermon on the Mount, he describes his followers as light, leaven and salt. This suggests that every believer can have an impact in the world. Christians are light in the midst of darkness. Christians are like leaven in the loaf. Christians are described as the salt of the earth. What does that mean? Salt has multiple uses. It preserves meats and it makes food tasty. One author said salt brings out the best in food. Salt also melts ice (which freezes the ice cream). Large quantities of salt kill the weeds. Salt can kill impurities but salty talk is not becoming. In the world of the first century, salt was sometimes a catalyst for fire as it made the oil burn more brightly in lamps. Salt absorbs water and thus dries up walkways and roadways. It was also used as a fertilizer. Salt was used to seal treaties. All of these uses suggest applications for Christian living. What happens when you and I are salty Christians? What did Jesus have in mind? What impact should we have on the world?

What happens when Christians are no longer salty? In our text, Jesus says they become good for nothing. Once the saltiness and flavor are gone, they cannot be restored. Christians who walk away from the Lord are among the hardest to restore. They have limited value. It is difficult to determine exactly what Jesus had in mind in our text, but salt that is no longer salty will not help the soil, whether as a drying agent or to kill weeds; neither is it suitable in a fertilizer mixture.

How is your Christian saltiness quotient? Are you salty? Are you salty enough to be of any eternal value? If not, pray that God will make you salty. Salty Christians can change the world and bring praise and glory to God.