

Salt and Light

For centuries before Jesus and during the time of Jesus salt was used to provide flavor to bland or flavorless foods. It was also used to keep meat from spoiling. Roman soldiers received part of their monthly pay in salt. Salt was known to keep hard working people from sweating too much and dehydrating. Jesus warned that the salt of his disciples *could* become unsalty, and therefore, tasteless and therefore useless. It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. That's a warning to keep being salty.

If you put a little bit of salt on the tip of your finger and it doesn't taste like salt, guess what? It's not salt. You got an imposter. You don't have salt.

Jesus and His disciples lived near the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea has a very high level of salt in it. The dried salt on the land is where they would dig up the salt they used. It also has many other substances mixed in with it. The best stuff was pure salt. But, if you dug up some salt mixed with other stuff, those things might overpower the salt taste and make it useless.

So, Jesus is saying to stay away from impure people and things and you will keep your saltiness. If not, you will lose it and become useless.

Question Time:

1. What was salt used for in the time of Jesus?
2. Can salt really lose its saltiness?
3. When a person loses his saltiness as described in the scripture, what might be the cause?

Scripture: Matthew 5:13 - 16

¹³“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Next Steps: In order to keep your saltiness, which is your faithfulness to God, don't sin by hanging out with bad company. Think about someone you know who tries to get you to think about things that your parents would not approve of or tries to get you to do things that you know are not right. They are the impurities that take the salt out of you. Stay away.