

STAY SALTY // Luke 14:34-35

Message from the series, The Cost of Discipleship

Jesus concludes his teaching on the cost of discipleship with a brief parable about salt. He uses this analogy in Matthew 5:13 and Mark 9:50. The main idea is that discipleship demands that we *prove* our discipleship to Jesus—he is calling us to prove whether we are salty.

Salt is good. While it has many practical uses, Jesus is focusing on the spiritual analogy. Salt is always salt. It is stable. Similarly, a disciple will always be a disciple because the disciple has been born again and regenerated.

So, how then can salt lose its saltiness? It can't. In Jesus' day, there was a salt that wasn't really salt. It was an impure mixture, and the real salt would eventually leach out. Likewise, not every person who says they are a disciple is actually a disciple. Not everything that looks and initially tastes like salt is actually salt.

What happens if I lose my saltiness?**1. I will live in doubt of my personal salvation.**

The truth is, you cannot lose your salvation—lost saltiness means you never experienced a true biblical conversion in the first place. How do people usually lose their salt? Through either time (the working out of salvation mentioned in Philippians 2:12-13) or through testing (the trials of various kinds mentioned in James 1:2-4). These are God's way of letting you know if you are actually a disciple.

2. I will live in search of Kingdom contentment.

Contentment means being satisfied in God and who he is and who you are in light of him. If you aren't being used for things of eternal significance, you will be dissatisfied, and Jesus isn't going to use someone who doesn't love him first, or who is self-absorbed or stuff-obsessed. Do you desire God to use you? Then meet the demands of discipleship.

If you were of use, you could be used in two ways: 1) for the soil as a fertilizer or 2) for the manure pile. If God calls you there, be the best salt you can be. However, a non-salty "Christian" is useless and a liability, standing in the way of those who could succeed in the work.

There are those in the church who look like disciples but aren't. There are two options: to be thrown away as useless or to repent and believe, to be transformed into salt.

3. I will live in fear of eternal condemnation.

Hell is a threat not because Jesus doesn't love us, but because he doesn't know us if we are not true disciples. The only thing to do is to repent and believe. We cannot meet the demands of discipleship in our own strength. We must be changed—we will be salt, salt is good, we will always be salt, and we will be used for eternal significance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Consider Matthew 5:13 and Mark 9:50 as well as this passage. What does it look like to be salt in our world?
2. Are you satisfied with God and his work in your life? Do you desire to be used for eternal significance?
3. Can you see times in your life where God has been allowing you to prove your saltiness through either time or testing?