

# Thursday Devotional

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*“13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.”*

How should the Christian live in the world? What is our relationship to the world supposed to look like? Jesus uses this section of His Sermon on the Mount to answer this question. He encourages and challenges those listening to be *“the salt of the earth.”* What exactly does it mean to be the salt of the earth? To understand this, we have to understand the purpose of salt.

In our minds we use salt to make food taste better when it doesn’t have enough flavor. We sprinkle a little salt on our soup or casserole without even tasting it first. However, there is another purpose that salt serves that is not used as often nowadays. Salt is meant to preserve and protect meat so that it will not get rotten. I think of something like a country ham where it is just so salty and has been covered in salt to protect from going bad.

With this idea of salt in mind, what does Jesus want for our relationship with the world to be? First, we must see the world is full of rottenness and sinfulness. This is why Christians, those who are in Christ, are considered salt of the earth. We are called by God to purify the world, and yet not be polluted by it. There is to be a noticeable difference between the Christians and the world. We are a people who are called to be set a part. To be clear, Jesus is not calling us to go and live the life of a monk in seclusion. How can we be active in fighting against decay and rottenness in the world if we are secluded from it? This is why we must be living in the world and yet separate from it while also purifying it.

How do we practically do this as Christians? I believe the answer is more simple than we think. I believe we go back and look at the Beatitudes and live the life that God has called us to live in the Beatitudes and we will be *“the salt of the earth.”* It means to live the life found in Christ in every sphere we find ourselves. Whether that is work, family, school, parenting, grandparenting, the grocery store, the car in traffic, the yard, the neighborhood, etc. We are called to be set a part not only in the privacy of our home but also in the eye of the public. Are you the salt of the earth? Are you fighting against the rottenness and decay of this world or are you becoming like it?

For further study: Philippians 4:8-9; 1 Peter 2:9-10