

The big WHY



“Salt Preserves”

July 25, 2010

Part 2

Matthew 5:13a

You are the salt of the earth.

2 Corinthians 2:12–16

¹²Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me. ¹³I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-by to them and went on to Macedonia.

¹⁴But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life.

Matthew 5:13b

... 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.

Study Questions:

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

Key passages: Matthew 5:13

1. What questions did this week's message raise for you?
2. What does this metaphor tell you about how God views you?
3. What do you think Jesus is telling you about why we are here today in this culture and day?
4. 1 Peter 2:2-3 describes another “craving” of Christian believers using another food metaphor. Would you say this is true to your experience? Why would you say it is or isn't?
5. In his commentary on Matthew, Michael Wilkins says this about the second half of Matthew 5:13:

“As they go out into the world as salt, they must recognize that the proof of the reality of their profession is in the nature of their lives. True disciples cannot lose what has made them disciples, because they have become changed persons, made new by the life of the kingdom of heaven. However, imposter disciples, who simply attempt to put on the flavoring of the kingdom life, will be revealed. Their salt is only an external flavoring, not a real personal change. This imposter cannot be made salty again because he or she never had that kingdom life in the first place.”

 - a) Do you see Wilkins' interpretation as accurate?
 - b) If so, is Jesus statement meant as a challenge, a comfort, or both?
6. Before you pray as a group, spend some time talking about the life situations in which you now sense you are called to be “salt.” Where do you think God is simply calling you to live out his worldview?
7. Spend sometime now and over the next week praying for each other in those situations.

