**Salty Christians In The Workplace**

Having finished learning the Beatitudes, the blessings that God has pronounced upon His followers, we move on to the other things Jesus spoke in His great sermon.

Matthew 5:13 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.**15**Neither 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. **16**In the same way, let your light shine before others, **that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Jesus was a master of metaphors and figurative language. He calls His followers two things specifically: salt of the earth and light of the world. When we analyze figurative language we try to understand what is meant by the comparison being made. So what in the world does Jesus mean calling us salt?

One of those things we know about salt is that it is necessary for life. Christians are necessary for the life of the earth. Salt is a preservative. It keeps things from going entirely bad. While the world is already going to hell in a handbasket, Christians are the only thing keeping the world in place. Christians are the salt in the world that keeps it from going entirely bad. Notice wherever there are many serious, devoted Christians society is in well-keeping

God was clear with Abraham that He would not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah if even 10 righteous people were found in the city. The people of God keep the world alive.

Salt preserves by purifying. Salt not only keeps food, but the process by which it does this is to get rid of the bad. Salt acts as an antiseptic, fighting off germs and bacteria that may grow on food causing it to rot or mold or do something worse. In the same way: Christians not only keep the world good; they also help get rid of the bad stuff. There are two ways this happens: By reaching the lost, and by living as Christ lived. As the number of Christians increase, the number of unholy people in the world decreases. God calls those who do not follow Him “children of the devil”. When Christians reach the lost, the number of “children of the devil” decreases. The Enemy’s army and playing field grows smaller and smaller. Sin decreases as Christians increase. Beyond converting people into the kingdom of God, Christians often eliminate evil and ungodliness by their very presence. Think about when a truly Christian person, holy and upright in character, enters the room. The atmosphere changes. The people present feel less inclined to talk dirty or gossip or display ungodly behavior. The mere presence of silent Christians living as Christ lived is enough to purify the culture and society around them.

We must never forget, however, that the Holy Spirit is what gives us flavor. The Holy Spirit makes us holy and empowers us to live for God and for His purposes. Therefore it is the Holy Spirit that makes us salty. When salt is flavorless it is useless. In the same way, when a believer tries to operate without the Holy Spirit they will fail. If the Holy Spirit is left out of the church and out of our lives, the church will continue to exist but its mission will cease to have meaning and power.

Jesus goes on further to compare us to one more thing: light! In a rotten world like we described before there is no denying the world is in darkness. Even in the midst of what the world calls Enlightenment. Even in the midst of all our knowledge and learning we are no better morally. There is this idea that education—building up the mind—will somehow make us more moral and good. But as we have seen, as knowledge and understanding have increased, evil has only increased all the more. We are smarter at doing evil, but still don’t know how to answer the deepest probing questions of life: Why do I exist? What is God’s purpose for me? How am I supposed to live in light of this? Our world is in darkness.

When you consider that more people are in slavery now than ever in the history of the world—particularly sex slavery—you know the world is in darkness. When you consider that

I’ve always found it interesting that we say that Jesus is the light of the world—and He is, the Bible is clear about that (John 8:12)—but the Light of the World Himself calls us—His followers—the Light of the World. The Light of the World has called you the Light of the World! How can this be? How can we really be the light of the world if Jesus is the Light of the World? Does the world need two lights? The answer is no, it does not need two lights. There is only one light the world needs and that is Jesus, but this Jesus lives inside of believers, shining through to the outside world.

Christians are the Light of the World because the Light of the World Jesus lives inside of them! He lives in us and His light shines through us! Our life is interwoven with His.

Everything that Jesus said about us being salt and light has to do with our relationship to the outside world—to other people in society. It might be the nature of the believer to want to avoid interaction with the outside world. It seems easier and much safer to stay away from the world and all the people in it that might pollute us. But that is the opposite attitude from what God intends for us to have.

In the early church there was a belief that Christians should completely separate from the world, not having anything to do with it. Not being a part of society or the working class. In today’s world the equivalent would be not going to school, not watching TV, not having a job, and so on. But these verses demonstrate that this is not what Jesus intended for His followers

When Jesus mentions a city on a hill it is a reminder that the Church and Christians should not be ashamed to shine their light before men. They should not be ashamed to be in the world but different from the world

The world isn’t interested in our words. It keeps a keen eye out for our works. The way we live influences the world around us! The world is a bad place. It is filled with rottenness and filth. The world is full of evil. The world needs the influence of Christians and the Church. The world does not exist for the church; the church exists for the world

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,