

Picture it: A Galilean peasant, with a handful of his rude countrymen, stands on the Mountain and says,
You are the people who are to keep the world from rotting!

I. THE TASK OF CHRIST'S DISCIPLES

The metaphor involves two things:

1. Judgment as to the actual state of society.

You do not salt a living thing.

You salt a dead thing to stop it from becoming a rotting thing.

Christ is saying: ***"Human society, without His influence, is a carcass that is rotting away and disintegrating."***

2. A lofty claim as to what His followers are able to do.

Christ is saying: ***"You are to be rubbed into that rotting mass to sweeten it, give it flavor and save it from falling to pieces of its own wickedness."***

"You are the salt of the earth."

Spiritual salt is of little value to the Lord or the community if its BARRELLED up in the church.

II. THE POSSIBILITY OF SALT LOSING ITS EFFECTIVENESS

There is a distinct possibility that a disciple can lose the penetrating power that holds back corruption.

A disciple can lose all that distinguishes them from those they are called to influence.

"You are the salt of the earth."

If you do not salt the world, the world will rot you!

Is the salt being infected by the carcass, or is it purifying the corruption?

It was fellowship with Christ that made those early disciples SALT!

Fellowship with Christ takes: Study, Meditation and Prayer.

III. THE CERTAIN END OF INEFFECTIVE SALT

It is not good for anything any longer but to be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men.

Matt 5:13 AMPC

Where are the churches of Asia Minor?

What happened to that early Syrian, Palestinian Christianity?

TRODDEN UNDERFOOT BY MEN!

Illustration: Over the archway of a mosque in Damascus you can read the half-obliterated inscription:

Thy Kingdom, O Christ, is an Everlasting Kingdom.

Above it: *There is No God but God, and Mohammed is His Prophet*

THE SALT LOST ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND WAS CAST OUT.

HAVE WE LOST OUR EFFECTIVENESS?

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IV. JUST WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US?

If we have lost our effectiveness,

we can gain it back by going to the very source from which it came.

Revelation 2:5

1 John 1:8, 9

Repentance will bring back the effectiveness that is called for in our lives.