

Christians Witnessing as Salt and Light

Date 3/27/11 WBCFWB

INTRODUCTION:

- a) There are two things that we value that seem so insignificant but are part of our survival.
We either complain because to much of these two things **or** we want more of these.
- b) One is hardly seen-Too little of it can't taste the difference- too much - can ruin your food.
- c) The other is visible it is need during the night or when it is dark.
Too much in the morning well say, Turn it off - **too little** of it can make you feel unsafe.
- d) What is it? **It is salt and light.**
One works as it comes into contact with the food and the other one as turned on.

Text: Matthew 5:13-16

THEME: We are the salt the silent work of influence and the light the visible manifestation of God in people's lives.

- e) Jesus said **you** are the Salt and the light. (v.13&14) ["Ye are" talking to His disciples]
Today I want to share with you an ancient formula that can turn this world upside down.

I. A CHRISTIANS SILENT WORK - INFLUENCE Vs.13 "Salt Witnessing"

A. SALT (v.13) (PP)

1. Sermon on the Mount- stated- Beatitudes are elements of Christian Character.

This next section deals with the Christians influence. A Christian that is merciful or is meek, or is a peacemaker, or that is pure in heart **will have a tremendous influence in the lives of those who have not given their heart to God.**

2. In ancient times salt was seen as a necessity of life.

Because of its seasoning and preservative qualities was one of the most highly prized minerals. In many societies it was so highly valued that it was used for money.
The English word salary is derived from the Latin word Salarium which refers to the payments made to a Roman soldier with salt.

B. The use of Salt (v.13) (PP)

- Salt was gathered in Palestine from along the seashore or inland lakes.

1. SALT MAKES YOU THIRSTY – (Salty ham)

2. SEASONING: In Bible times and still today salt is used for seasoning our food.

- Salt is so small and hardly noticeable- **makes a difference when applied.**

3. Preservative: used to preserve food - did not have the refrigeration systems.

C. Believers are the Salt of the Earth (v.13) (PP)

1. What did Jesus mean by this statement? **It is the silent witness of the Christian believer.**

- Christ is saying **let your influence season people's life for the kingdom.**
- Salt changes things; a little salt can flavor a big pot of beans.
- A **little salt** **can flavor** a whole community a whole neighborhood a whole workplace.

2. The whole issue of salt is the seasoning, **the influence you have on others**. Some one said, The salt is no good if it never leaves the salt shaker, it is only an decoration to the kitchen table.

3. We **deny the salt function** when we fail to mingle with people that are lost; we **deny the function of the salt** when we fail to be kind, merciful, peacemaker.

- To deny the salt function is to deny the principles of the kingdom of God.
- We are not to draw away from society, we are not of the world but we live in the world.
- If we as Salt don't rub against those who have no flavor, the perishing who will?

4. Jesus said, **You are the salt- It is emphatic He didn't say you are the earth.**

We are either the salt or the world.

(G. Campbell Morgan) "Jesus, looking out over the multitudes of His day, saw the corruption, the disintegration of life at every point, its breakup, its spoliation; and because of His love of the multitudes, He knew the thing that they needed most was the salt in order that the corruption should be arrested."

5. Salt witnessing is **about showing true love and friendship.**

- Showing the true love and friendship of Jesus to others.
- **Love is the main ingredient in true friendship.**
- **When love fills the heart, it will flow out to others.**
- This love sweetens the entire life and sheds it's blessing upon all around.
- This love **for** Jesus, and **of** Jesus - only, that can make us the salt of the earth.

II. A CHRISTIANS VISIBLE WORK - TESTIMONY - Vs.14 "Light Witnessing"

A. Light (PP)

1. Light is described as **a form of energy it is always moving.**

- When light energy ceases to move, because it has been absorbed by matter, it is no longer light.
- **Light- been a symbol of divine presence.** Jesus said - He was the light of the world.

2. Who is the **true source of light?** (John 8:12) (Psalm 27:1)

3. **People are living in fear** because of what is happening in their dark world.

- This is the **opportunity to shine the light so people will not be afraid. (v.15)** **(1 John 1:7)** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
- So we are called to have friendships and to witness to our friends in darkness.

4. We know Jesus is the true light **we are only reflectors of the light.**

- The question is **what does it mean that Jesus is the light? (John 1:6-9 *v.4)**
- It is **very evident that we are just reflectors and of Jesus Light.**
- Not only that but **to be a light of Jesus is to live His life here on earth.**
- In other words our testimony that we are **(In Christ).**

B. Functions of Light (PP)

1. Expose darkness: Darkness is expelled as soon as you hit the lights.

- People are not aware of the darkness they live in if they don't see the light.
- The question is does my life help people see more clearly?
"The people which sat in darkness saw great light;" (Matt. 4:16)

2. Light serves a guide: Airport runways helps planes see their runway by the lights.

- We are guides to people who are in darkness. **(If our light is shining)**

3. Light is to be seen: There is no such thing as a secret Christian.

- We need to be a light at all times. **(All the time, every place)**
- Light shines not so much that people may see the light as that they may see other things because of the light.
- Our light shines not that people will be attracted to us **but to the light Jesus Christ.**

C. Light under a Bushel (Vs.15) (PP)

1. Palestinian homes were generally dark. Having one small window.

They did not have electricity and light bulbs like we have.

Their light consisted of a lamp which was a bowl filled with oil that had a wick.

When they needed light the lamp was placed on a lamp stand.

The most difficult thing of having this light in the house **was in lighting the lamp.**

- Remember **they didn't have matches or lighters.**

2. As a result, no one wanted to let their light go out because **It took to much work to get the wick lid again.** But when people went out of the house it was dangerous to leave the light on so for safety reasons when they left their homes the lamp would be taken from its lamp stand and placed under an earthen vessel where it could burn risk free. As soon as someone returned they would put the lamp on the stand.

3. No one lights a light only to put it under a basket or earthen vessel **we are to let our light shine to the maximum.**

D. Believers are the Light (PP)

Illustration: The story is told of a man whose job was to be on the railroad tracks and warn with his light the upcoming training of the bridge that had been damaged. That night as the train came the man showed his lamp but the train went right into the ditch. The man was taken to court because they wanted to know why the train did not pay attention to this man who was to warn the train of the danger ahead. The man was asked, Where you on duty on the night that the train had the accident- the judge asked. The man replied, Yes sir- the judge once again asked did you have your lamp with you? The man replied, Yes sir, the judge asked the last question did you wave your lamp to the train? The man replied, Yes sir so the man was not held responsible. Later as the man went home he told his friend, I am glad that the judge did not ask me if my lamp was on.

1. We are to **dispel darkness**. (Isa. 60:1-3)

2. The whole issue with the light is to be able to lighten in the darkness.

- Jesus said, **you are** the light of the world.
- **Every Christian should be a light to help others find salvation.**
- **We don't have light of our own** anymore than the moon has light without the sun.

4. Jesus didn't say, you are the light of Palestine, He said, You are the light of the world.

- We are to preach the **gospel to the whole world.** (Rev. 14:6)

5. What happens when a light fails to give its light? **It is removed.** (Revelation 2:1,5)

6. We are the light; **it is visible to the human eye.** People need to see the message.

Closing:

A. Differences between salt and light witnessing (PP)

1. Salt works and expands itself silently but you see it operating.

- Things are delicious without ever seeing the salt.
- a) You don't have to give a Bible study to be salt, **your influence,** your peace, your meekness, your mercy.
 - God is saying just give me one salt and I will affect the lives of many!
 - How many of us have gotten sick in the past two months? **It all started with one.**

2. Light has a different type of effect. **Light is visible when it is seen it works openly.**

- This is when you openly share your faith with others, when you share about God.

3. **People need to see Christians witnessing as salt and light!**

- They need to see how your acquaintance with them, **is a seasoning to their life.**
- They **need to see how the light witness,** reflects Jesus in our lives; **we need to share with them the true source of light.** (Tell them!)
- Remember we are just reflectors of the light.

(2Cor. 4:6) "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

CONCLUSIONS

1. Christians to be the salt of the earth. (Are we a Seasoning to the Lost)
2. Christians to be the light of the world. (To shine with the glory of God in a dark world)
3. Are You in the Light? Are You Saved?