



Week 1 - Salt: A Radical Minimum Standard

Teaching Text

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."*

Luke 9:23 *Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."*

Sermon Recap

This week, we explored the call to be the "salt of the earth," which requires us to raise the minimum standard of our discipleship to something **radical**. In a world dominated by "war machines" and secular values, our discipleship must be **"stronger than that"**. Too often, we settle for consumer-based or preference-based discipleship that allows us to master outward programs while remaining unchanged inwardly.

To reclaim our "saltiness," we must focus on three core areas:

- **A Heavenly Palate:** Moving beyond a "dull" earthly palate satisfied by physical pleasures to taste the "living water" of the Spirit.
- **Counting the Cost:** Recognizing that following Jesus is **costly** and requires a "cruciform path" that creates a "rub" between us and the world.

- **A Salty Ecosystem:** Creating a holistic environment—at home, at work, and in our rhythms—where the things of God are impressed upon the next generation.

Discussion Questions

Connect

1. What is a "standard" in your life (at work, in a hobby, or a routine) that you have recently felt the need to raise?

Character *Ask someone to read **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** and **Matthew 5:13** aloud. Then, ask the following:*

1. What images or phrases stand out to you regarding how God expects His people to live out their faith?
2. What do these passages reveal about God's desire for the **visibility** and **durability** of our faith?

Consider

1. We often settle for a "dull palate," being content with two little. What are some "earthly" things you currently turn to for fulfillment that might be numbing your appetite for God?
2. Discipleship should feel like a "**rub**" against the crowd. Have you felt that "rub" recently—perhaps in a decision to say "no" to a cultural norm or "yes" to an uncomfortable act of service?
3. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die". How does this "costly" view of discipleship contrast with the "consumer-based" discipleship often found in the modern church?
4. The "Salty Ecosystem" is about making God's presence known in the "lying down and getting up" of life. What is one counter-cultural rhythm you can implement in your home or schedule this week to model God's ways to those around you?

Cover

"This must be stronger than that."

Spend time praying that your group would have the courage to "burn their boats" and plunge into the "absolute insecurity" of following Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to stimulate a **heavenly palate** in each person, that you might taste and see that the Lord is good.