

Announcements

Want to keep up on what's going on around here? Drop your info card in the offering plate and we'll add you to the e-letter list.

Halloween Fund Raiser

Interested in helping with our annual Pregnancy Resource Center Halloween Fundraiser? Contact Brytt Keel - 360-621-8111 or bkeel@strategyrealestate.net

Communities:

This is where we gather to pray, study and encourage one another as part of the missional work of the Gospel. We would love to get to know you more, and this is one of the best ways to get planted as a part of Seaside.

Please consider joining a Community to strengthen the not only your family, but the larger community.

Contact eric@seasidechurch.com for info on where groups meet or to lead/host one.

Contact Us:
P.O. Box 5533
Bremerton, WA 98312
360.373.1483

info@seasidechurch.com

Context? As a matter of review, it is important to read this verse in view of how it fits with the verses around it. Verses 1-10 walk us through the Beatitudes. Verses 11-12 talk about the result and our (the **you** is plural, meaning all of us are in this proverbial boat) reaction in light of living out these commands from Jesus. V.13 assumes that if you **are** a disciple of Jesus, then you **are** the salt of the earth. The "are" here stresses the **being** rather than the **doing**. It is a current reality, if we live it or not, as followers of Christ, what it is to the sons of God. A recap from our look at v.9 - Blessed are the peacemakers:

"And that is what it means to be sons of God, dwelling in unity (Ps 133). We have seen that as believers we are no longer beggars, but children of God, every good and perfect gift and promise is ours (though again, we must be careful our motives of what we ask according to James). This is not just some vague idea, this is actually to be considered as precious as your very children (whether now, in the past, or even those that are still hoped for) - to be called that not only by Him (as if that were not enough), but also that the whole world might say, "These indeed must be the children of God, because, even though they will never be their Father, they are without a doubt from Him, and are about His work."

Being a peacemaker is one who seeks reconciliation of all men to God, doing all things with the motive, as a son of God, of making that a reality."

Salt can be used as a means to heal wounds, to add flavor, a binder of a covenant, a method of payment, or as a preservative. They all play a part in this, but based on the problem here of salt becoming **tasteless**, we are drawn to focus on the flavor and preservative nature of salt. The need of believers to be salt in the world means that, by implication, the earth is in a decaying state (Psalm 51.5; Isaiah 1.5; Jeremiah 17.9; 2 Timothy 3.13). This isn't a case where we are stopping or eliminating decay, but we are slowing the rate at which the world spoils, and that with the hope that many will come to see that we who are **in Christ** are a real (v.1-7), redeemed (v.8-9), and joyful (v.10-12) people (see also 2 Corinthians 2.14-16 & 1 Peter 2.9).

The natural implication of being salt of the earth is that we are in contact with the world around us. We must be both distinctive and involved.

"The very characteristic of saltiness proclaims a difference, for a small amount of salt in a large medium is at once apparent. ...It is a principle of cellular infiltration. Just a little salt can affect the great mass." Martyn Lloyd-Jones

What happens if this is not the case? What if we are not a preservative and flavorful part of the world? We are **tasteless**. How does one become tasteless if we are salt? There is a play on-words here, a pun even, that, in the Aramaic, to be tasteless also means **to become foolish**. Because this is not a moral call or work, but a distinct and clear call of Christ, the result of avoidance is that we, instead of being vessels of righteousness, become vessels of death and decay.

Being the salt of the earth means that we are both distinctive and involved in the world around us, seeking to slow the decay and corruption through the work of Christ in our lives, driven by the desire that they might see Him and come to know Him as the great and final Healer.