

## ***Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 40***

***“13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.” (Matthew 5:13 KJV)***

***Ye are the salt of the earth:*** This is said to the disciples and the Apostles of Christ who are compared to salt, because the taste of the salt is savoury, salty, spicy, with unique flavor test and not to be changed: it is strong and overpowering taste: it is aromatic with spreading fragrant: and it is not sweet.

***Ye are the salt of the earth:*** Because the doctrines they preach are agreeable to the Scriptures, and are of the evangelical kind, which are full of Christ, full of Christ's mercy, serve to exalt Christ, and to magnify the grace of God: and are according to Godliness, and to promote holiness.

***Ye are the salt of the earth:*** Also because of their salty savoury lives and conversations; their good example is recommended that will give endorsement to the doctrines they preached. They are examples to us and for the world today to see and follow.

Savory salty taste is a challenging taste that you need to adopt yourself on. Children like to eat sweet. Children like to eat fruit but not vegetables because fruit has sugar taste. But step by step they need learn to eat the salty and the spicy taste.

So savory salt is a challenging for life style and for the doctrine of life that we already studied in all the previous beatitudes in ***Matthew 5:3-12*** that we had passed through and discussed in details: ***“3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: (not proud in spirit) for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are they that mourn (not those who enjoy partying): for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek: (not the arrogant) for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: (not those who hunger and thirst for worldliness) for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful (not the cruel): for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart (not those with malice and hidden agenda): for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: (not the compromisers and the evildoers) for they shall be called the children of God. 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake (not the well pampered): for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.” (Matthew 5:3-12 KJV)*** ***So savory salty taste is a challenging for the life style of suffering, the narrow way, the forgiveness, departing from evil and worldliness, living in holiness and in humility, the style of life that God wants us to live, the life of giving, the life evangelism, the life denying ourselves and our plans and be willing to suffer for Christ.***

***Ye are the salt of the earth:*** These were the salt “of the earth”; that is, of the inhabitants of the earth, not of the land of Judea only, where the Apostles of Jesus first lived and preached, but of the whole world, into which they were afterwards sent to preach the Gospel. So with such description we are the salt of the earth, it means we are called to preach the Gospel and the Word of God to the whole world.

***“But if the salt have lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted?”*** If the disciples who carry the Gospel lose their salty savoury from their lives style, or lose the savoury doctrines of the Gospel and its precision and strictness in their preaching, and if they will lose their zeal, compassion and affection, with which the Gospel is preached, then that what is described as has lost its savour.

***“But if the salt have lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted?”*** Christ here might be speaking in respect to Judas, whom Christ had chosen to the apostleship, and was a devil; and who He knew would lose his usefulness and place, and become an unprofitable wicked, and at last be rejected of God. \* ***This case is proposed to them all, and to us today, in order to take heed to ourselves, our doctrine and ministry, that if we will not keep being salt we will be rejected by God. \* Moreover, this is also a warning to us to be away from the love of money, the boasting and the showing off.*** Judas when he came to arrest Jesus was given officers. Possible he led a team of 500 people to arrest Christ, and he received a big amount of money. \* ***So these are the temptations for us today that may cause us to depart from Christ, the love of money, the love of fame, the dream to live a life without troubles all will kill our savory of being the salt for the earth.***

Salt does not lose its savor. That is true, disciples and followers of Christ are never would be passing in such situation. \* ***Disciples will never accept to live without reaching and teaching new people.*** But should it do so, ***it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot.*** Salt is good for nothing, but to make things taste salty savoury, and preserve from putrefaction. \* ***Precise message, rebuke, strickness, compassion, showing mercy, exalting Christ all are the savour of the salty message from Christ disciples.***

Salt used to preserve the vegetable; but salt when it has lost its savour, it is of no use, neither to men nor beasts, as somethings are when corrupted; nor is it of any use to the land, or for dunghill. \* ***The same is for the ministers of the Word, when they have dropped the salty savoury doctrines of the Gospel; the grace and mercy toward the worst sinners, the compassionate drive toward those lost, the strictness against sin, and the precision in walking through the narrow gate, or have quitted their former good example and never retrieved, then their usefulness is gone, so they are cast out of the churches of Christ, and are treated with contempt by everyone.***

Let us go through the Scripture to understand what is to be the salt of the earth. We can read the following: ***“49 For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. 50 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.” (Mark 9:49-50 KJV)*** Here the Lord also was speaking about salt. To understand what really Jesus meant with this let us read and meditate on the passage prior to that to grasp the meaning of it.

***“33 And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? (It seems here the disciples where having dispute among themselves while they were traveling with Jesus in the way that they needed to go. Certain times while we are moving with Jesus and in following Him, we are getting busy and intermingling with shameful things that we should not do and things that should not be there in our lives). 34 But they held their peace: for by the way they***

*had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.* (The disciples held their peace and did not answer the Lord His question to them because they were ashamed to answer Him for they were disputing and arguing about something wrong that they should not do. Certain times you are getting involved and side tracked about things that you should not side tracked with. Jesus was heading for His crucifixion but they were disputing about who is the greatest among themselves. That shows that they are not in the mind of Christ and their lives are not as what the salt of the earth that Jesus described. For what they were arguing had come from pride, boasting, competition, and worldliness. Just put it in your mind when the disciples are involved in friendship, flatteries, love of money, quarrels, affairs, etc, they will depart from Christ, therefore you need to avoid all such to be in line with Christ and His Word). 35 *And he sat down,* (He sat down to teach them. At the time of Jesus the teacher will sit down to teach and the disciples will stand up to listen and learn.) *and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.* (Here Jesus described to them what will be the fate of pride, boasting and their worldly view of life. He called the disciples and He is calling us today to explain important things for us. If we look to be first and to excel above others, then God will work it out to humiliate us and put us down to be the last and the servant of all. That is how He works in our lives to break our pride and to humble us down). 36 *And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them,* (He took a child, as an example to what He needed them to be and on what He needed us to be, like children, who are humble, meek and not having high mind of what they want to be and desire things that bring them above others). 37 *Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.* (He put it to them and to us today in a clear way: if you are following Christ with a humble and simple mind like children, and no wrong motive and no malice and no evil thoughts, envy and jealousy in you minds, then you are receiving Christ, and not only receiving Christ, but you are as well as receiving God the Father who sent Christ to earth and to us to save us, and you will reflect Christ and God the Father to the world around us). Now a day as the churches and disciples became flatterers, compromisers, idol worshippers, and lost their salty savor Jesus started to teach them in more hard way because no more they are responding to the ordinary measures. They never plan to stop their idols; Christmas celebration, New year celebration, Valentine celebration, Pastor appreciation month, Thanksgiving Day, Father Day, Mother Day, they stand in front of the Christmas tree and adore it. What is the difference between them and the Catholics who adorn Mary? That is why God's wrath came in a more strong way; He came with COVID 19 to discipline the whole world and all the churches. But since they have not repented of their worldliness, more pandemic will come and more collapses with the economy. I was reading in the book of Joel about the army of locust that God sent and caused to devour all the harvest, *"I Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; 2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. 3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them."* (Joel 2:1-3 KJV) The same to the economic effect of COVID 19, when God allowed such pandemic that caused collapse in the economy). (The disciples suppose to say to the Lord that they agree to what He taught them. But they kept silent and now another

prideful thought appear and needed to be corrected when John spoke in verse 38). 38 *And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us.* (Here John spoke something as if it has no relationship to what Jesus spoke and he told Jesus that they saw a man casting out demons in Jesus name, and they stopped him because he was not following them. That man was working out of an honest heart toward God and toward man. That action of the disciples to stop that man came from arrogance, and from pride, but after Jesus rebuked them by the example of the child that He made stand in the midst of them and had taken to His arm, John was humbled and convicted to open up and confessed to the Lord what sin and mischief they did with that person whom they stopped, waiting from Jesus to give His opinion about what they did). 39 *But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.* (Jesus told him clearly that they should not forbid him at all, because no man will do miracle in the name of Jesus will speak evil against Jesus). 40 *For he that is not against us is on our part.* (Therefore, Jesus gave them the conclusion that whoever is not against them in doing the work of God and the will of God is for them. Why they stopped him then? Jealousy, envy, arrogance, self-righteousness, competition, and selfishness. Why you go and stop honest person who is driving out demons and who is fighting against the work of the devil? It is your pride arrogance, jealousy and envy that you need to repent from). 41 *For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.* (Here Jesus made them see from the direction that He is seeing, that those who are doing the same work of them or the same work of us are not enemies but they are doing good, and they are a source of help to them and to us, and their work is similar to a cup of water given to them because they belong to Christ. People who evangelize and make disciples and teach the people to do what is right they are changing the world and make people life better and makes the world better and that is good things for us. Those who serve God wholeheartedly their ministries are a help and support to us and to our doing. Here Jesus is rebuking in them their self-righteousness and their love to be in a greater position). 42 *And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.* (Now when they will behave in arrogance and self righteousness, and they will offend those who are the true followers of Jesus who are humble and meek and of simple mind, and are doing their service to God wholeheartedly, they will discourage them, hurt them and ill treat them, and that will bring the judgment of God on them. As well as when the disciples with their wrong ways of life and with what they do wrong will offend others, misleading them with their bad attitudes and examples, and their rebelling and moving away from God, and their non willingness to serve, non willingness to comply with the will of God and the plan, and the style of life that He ordained for them, then the disciples and we today will be judged by the Lord not only because we lose our salty savor but we are becoming bad examples to others, and for this crime a millstone to be hanged around our necks and were to be cast into the sea). 43 *And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:* (Jesus expounded here that every disciple should be keen that his life style and attitude should go along the Word of God and not to let others to go astray by what we do. He is very assertive up to the point that the part that causing to sin, is better to be cut than to be kept and end up the whole person in the fire of hell). Here let us check ourselves with what we do in our hands and sin against God. God had given to us hands to work with them and to do the good work of God. Stealing, laziness, not using our hands to work and

do good things, or doing evil things with the hands will put us in danger of hell. Hell is real and here as we can read further that Jesus repeating this Word to His disciples to warn them and to warn us to repent and to amend our ways so we will not sin and caused others to stumble and sin and we would be cast into hell). **44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.** (Here Jesus described two characteristic of hell; First, worm that will not die by fire, and Second, the flame of that fire will never be extinguished). **45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:** (Here Jesus speaking about sins that caused by the feet. Why God gave us feet? To play football, to play basketball? No no no. Or going to places that we should not go, and refuse to go to the places that God is sending us to? We need to use our feet to serve God). **46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.** (In hell the person will not die but will live forever and he will be conscious with pain in the body and torturing in the mind). **47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:** (Here Jesus speaking about sins that caused by the eyes; watching pornography, playing games, window shopping, watching girls, watching boys, wasting time on facebook, etc.). **48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 49 For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. For every one shall be salted with fire:** (Mark 9:33-49 KJV) The meaning of that is that every one of those disciples that transgress the law of God, offend any that believe in Christ, keeping their sins, and sinful companions; every one of them that are cast into hell, where the worms of conscience is always biting, and the fire of divine wrath is always burning, with that fire every one of them shall be salted: that fire shall be salt to them. Salt to the flesh is to keep flesh from putrefaction and corruption, so the fire of hell, as it will burn, torture, and distress the rebellious sinners and backslider disciples who refuse to amend their ways, it will preserve them in their beings; they shall not be consumed by it, but continued tortured in it. The soul in torment shall never die, or lose any of its powers and faculties; and particularly the torturing conscience; and that the fire of hell is inextinguishable; for though sinners will be inexpressibly tormented in it, they will not be consumed by it; but the smoke of their torments shall ascend forever and ever; and that they will be so far from being annihilated by the fire of hell, that they shall be preserved in their beings in it, as flesh is preserved by salt. The disciple who refuse to be the salt for the earth and refuse to offer his body and life as living sacrifice to God, will be salted with fire in hell as explained.

**My dear and beloved: 49 For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.” (Mark 9:49 KJV)** What we can witness today in the life of the church of keeping festival from the world and inventing days to be added to the life of the church is idol worship and taking away the taste of salty message. They are diluting the message and bringing chocolate taste in the life of the church; those they will be salted with fire in hell. When we give the wrong taste of what God wants us to give, we will be judged by the fire of God. \* The disciples who refuse to be salt for the earth after they have received all the teaching and the blessings of God and went away from His service and from doing His will they will be salted with fire in hell if they will not repent.

Four main things from my experience the disciples are not willing to surrender to God, First, in the field of education on what and to what level they need to study, Second, to

whom they need to marry, Third, to which place they need to live, and Fourth, the style of life that they need to live.

Come now to the Lord in repentance. Confess all your sins and renounce them. Surrender your life in full to the Lord. Repent of your pride, worldliness, envy, jealousy, anger, laziness, the lust of your eyes, the love of money, the non willingness to suffer, the non willingness to discipline yourself in areas of attitude, character, spending, and in non allowing the fruit of the Holy Spirit to appear in your life.

**My prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that made me see clearly my sins and wrong doings, and the way that I need to live and serve you to be a true disciples of yours.*

*Confess to God your sins and renounce them. Ask God forgiveness for your pride, anger, resentment, grumbling, doubt, worries, laziness, oversleeping, worldliness, worldly friends, your unfaithfulness, and ungratefulness, the love of money, the non willingness to suffer, the non willingness to discipline yourself in areas of attitude, character, spending, and in non allowing the fruit of the Holy Spirit to manifest in your life. Confess your sins to God. Lord forgives me the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Surrender your life and your will fully to the Lord. Be willing to work with God cultivate more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit to appear in your life.*

*Lord I commit myself to abide with this Word of yours that I receive in this message to be a good example to others around me who do not know you and to live and to preach the precise message of Your Word. Lord I will work with you to develop the fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, patient, long suffering, self-control, faith, faithfulness, gentleness, kindness, and generosity. Lord I commit myself to have love and compassion and forgiveness toward sinners and work out to bring your love and your message to them. Lord give me strength and patience to bear the pain and suffering while I am serving you and reaching others. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and have me fully to you. I surrender my life in full to you, Lord give me the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that I can go and serve you and evangelize and reach others and spread your Word and teach those who are willing to follow you.*

*Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your Word and are willing to live their lives for you, to speak your Word, and to be good example to others. Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord work miracles for them and enable them to persevere in serving you as they are willing to evangelize, to start new Bible study and to plant new congregations.*

*Lord bless us and sustain us as a church. Lord help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord give to us more of the Holy Spirit gifts to be ready to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the message of the Word of God. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.*

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