



SERIES: Walking with Jesus
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Monday, November 13, 2023
Scripture: Matthew 5:13
TITLE: Don't Be Useless

One of the good elements of moving is the ability to evaluate and eliminate unnecessary items from your life. It's amazing how much stuff you can cling onto that has no value and no use. But how would you feel if someone said you were invaluable and of no use. Well, Jesus wants to make sure that never becomes true. How? Listen to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:13 (CSB):

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.”

I've been called a lot of things in this world, but salt is not on the top ten list. Jesus' words seem silly to us in modern culture. We use salt every day, but it's cheap and common. You can find it at every grocery store and even for free at the fast-food restaurant.

So why is being salt so important to Jesus? In ancient culture, salt was incredibly valuable. Salt was a precious commodity. The only thing more precious than salt to the Romans was the sun. Roman soldiers were often paid with salt. Salt was used as a mark of friendship. Salt was even used to secure a covenant or promise.

Well, that's weird. It is to us, but when you see how versatile it was and is, you'll get it.

First, salt was a preservative. They didn't have refrigerators or freezers in Jesus' day, so they would pack their meat with salt to cure it. They would preserve their meat with salt. Incredibly useful.

Second, salt adds flavor. There is only one seasoning you need to bring the flavor out of a dish. That's salt. It brings a meal to life.

Now, think about this: salt creates a thirst. Why do you think restaurants serve chips and salsa? It's not because you're their favorite customer. It makes you thirsty. They want you to buy a beverage.

Now there are other elements we could talk about. But think about this. What would happen if we as Christians preserved the moral fabric of society instead of staying quiet? What if we were adding flavor to all areas of life? What if we were creating a thirst for righteousness and a relationship with Jesus?

We can, and we should. We are salt.

Jesus says if that salt becomes tasteless, it is useless and not worth keeping. It is only good for throwing out on the street. We don't want that.

So here's my challenge for you today: add a little flavor and thirst where you are at.

What is it in your daily routine that can add the flavor of Christ? Is it coaching a youth team? Is it how you interact with the person at the check-out counter? Is it how you bless the server or the customer?

How can you create a thirst for Jesus in how you speak and live? There are so many ways.

We are salt. So let's be salt today.