

BEING SALT

YOUR PRESENCE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE, PART 2

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God gives his people names that describe their destiny:

Abram → Abraham (father of many nations)
Simon → Peter (rock)
Jacob → Israel (prince, or "struggled with God")

Jesus gives his followers a name that describes their destiny

"You are the salt of the earth."

Matthew 5:13

Jesus calls you and I _____

Salt at that time was primarily a preservative.

What made the followers of Jesus "salt?"

- Jesus gave them a new worldview, new values, and new teachings that have the power to change the world.
- Without those teachings/values/worldview Jesus knew the world would rot and spoil faster.

Imagine the following values were suddenly removed from this world:

- All human life has value
- All people are made in the image of God
- One God
- Even if you are not politically or socially powerful, your life can still have dignity
- Women are not inferior to men
- The strong should defend the weak
- The rich should be generous to the poor
- Forgiveness is right, revenge is wrong

*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.*

Matthew 5:13

- i.e. if the teachings and worldview of Jesus are not passed on and lived out, there is no hope for the world.
- If you and I are not "salty" we are wasting our lives.

Salt always makes a _____

**All scriptures from TNIV unless otherwise noted*