Dear Open Door Family,

Wow, I did not realize so much time had gone by since my last devotional. I have been in the middle of rather serious computer difficulties for a number of weeks. Most of the issues are resolved though a couple of daily issues continue to cause difficulties. Email has been especially hard and is still not really resolved. Thank you for you patience. As I have been reading through the four gospels side by side in a harmony of the gospels it has been fun to see the comparisons and the wonders of how the Holy Spirit used each author to tell us what he wanted us to know. The Sermon on the Mount is one of those wonderful passages where we can learn so much. Let's look at these familiar verses together.

Matthew 5:13 *(NIV) "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 by men.*

Matthew 5:13 *(MSG) "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've LOST YOUR USEFULNESS and will end up in the garbage.*

There are several views about what Jesus meant when He said we were salt. He may have been saying we are to create a thirst in others for God by the way we live. It may be that we are to bring flavor to life just like salt adds seasoning. But there is no question we ARE SALT! There is no doubt that Jesus said what He meant. Christians ARE salt. The only question is, are we functioning as salt or not? What does it mean to function as salt? Are we bringing flavor to life? Do we give people a taste of God when they come in contact with us? Or, are we causing them to have a thirst for God? The Message translation says - if we lose our saltiness, how will people taste Godliness? Salt that has no flavor is worthless. It has lost is usefulness. It is not functioning the way it is supposed to. It is a useless white powder.

PRAYER: Lord, help me to bring the flavor of YOU to all those I come in contact with. Help me to show through my words and my life that YOU and ONLY YOU bring true lasting flavor to life! That only YOU satisfy forever.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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