

## The Flavor of Relevance

*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 5:13-15

In Matthew 5:13 the author makes a very bold, declaratory statement that says you are the salt of the earth. It didn't recommend that you be the **salt**; it didn't suggest that you are the salt. Rather, it is very clear that at judgment you will be judged against the standard of salt. Remember that. This Scripture goes on to say that if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it – the earth – be seasoned? There is no other group, no organization, no matter how well intentioned they are, who can flavor the earth but you, the saints of God. In this passage, we go from earth, to world, to city, to house. How did we lose our flavor? We lost it in the house.

In Matthew 7:29, we learn that Jesus *taught them as one having **authority***, meaning knowledge, relationship. He had so much knowledge of what He was talking about because He was in relationship with His daddy, so that when He spoke it caused a line of distinction. The text says the people were astonished at Jesus' teaching or doctrine. The people looked at Jesus and saw He was different from anybody else they had ever heard teach the bible. I have a question for you: when was the last time people singled you out for being real spiritual? I'm not referring to being a fanatic or crazy person, but a situation where they came to you because the way you talked was different from everybody else, and you had such an authority in your voice that they sought you out for counsel and wisdom. The reason why those on the outside don't want to come with you to church is because they have not seen a difference in your life.

When Jesus speaks, He astonishes you, or knocks you out of you, to understand that it is a bigger program, ministry, and call than just what's going to happen to you. To "astonish" also means to be "amazed." Jesus was blowing their mind because of His sayings and doctrine, and doctrine means manner or character. People may not know what you are into, but they will detect what's in you. **Character** is not something you can conjure up on a moment, but it exudes out of you by the spirit. So, Jesus' teaching and character amazed the people as He taught them things that could be applied to their lives. Many of you went to churches where the message didn't mean anything because what the preacher said was not relevant to you. When Jesus spoke, He came with strength, force and authority, which also means "efficiency," or the ability to accomplish a task with minimum output of time an effort.

In essence what Jesus taught was now efficiently working for them with a minimum amount of effort, and it amazed them. Why? Because it was **relevant**. If you are not relevant, you will be ignored. The church is ignored today because we are not relevant. We have chosen to compromise and be accepted in the system instead of the Kingdom,

and the destruction of nations are in our hands because we refuse to be salt. Even in the church we got an opinion – instead of simply saying what God said.

Recently, God spoke to me to leave a place, and I took Him at His word, but not immediately, and I suffered for it. God then spoke to me and said, “Whenever I open up a window for you, **do not stay and delay**. You better get moving and get through that window because I will start to close it.” For the Body of Christ, God says there is a window open, and we need to move in those dimensions corporately and in our personal lives.

In all of this, our power first begins at home. For us to take the city and the world, the first assignment and window God has opened up for us as the salt of the earth is to **get our homes in order**. Concerning debt, marriages and rebellious children, there is a grace from God for us to be relieved of all of that, so that we may get our house in order.

Romans 1:16 says *for I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ*. Salt is **not ashamed** of being salt. It seems we have become so ashamed that the only way we can be identified as salt of the earth is to put something on, a hat, shirt or something that says “Jesus,” and if we don’t, no one knows. The indictment is that we are ashamed. God says He created us in His image, in His likeness in His character. We act like and speak like God. When we say something, it happens. The reason why is because each day we spend a little time with Jesus before we get started, and we know what’s about to happen that day. So when we run into somebody God gives us a word of knowledge, a word of prophesy, something that we say in our smile that turns their life around – if we are not ashamed.

The bible says at the name of Jesus every knee got to bow and every tongue got to confess. America demonstrated that on 9-11. Before 9-11 there was separation of church and state, after 911, temporarily, there was no separation, no shame, because trouble out ruled the minds and mentality of the people, and everybody knew God then.

There are five characteristics we must walk in as the salt of the earth, things that fit the purpose of the gospel and the purpose of the saint.

1. **I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ**, for it is the power of God unto salvation. There is a power that comes with not being ashamed. It causes folk to get saved. It causes them to see the holiness of God, for His righteousness is revealed. I found out if you want folk to act right around you, you change. You grow up, and they’ll either stretch to get with you or they’ll leave. When was the last time somebody got saved by the power of God in you?
2. **Not being ashamed, I should reveal the righteousness of God**. We have a way of condemning folk so that they miss seeing the righteousness of God because we are too busy throwing up their unrighteousness instead of walking in humility, that God’s glory will come through us. Does your presence demonstrate the glory of God?

3. **The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness.** Anything that exalts itself against the name of God, He will come against it. So, as the enemy comes in like a flood, God always raises a standard. For instance, concerning marriage, the Lord said marriage is between a man and a woman. When I make that statement, I'm not hating; I'm loving. If somebody won't tell you the truth, that's when they hate you. This is not a Civil Rights issue because Civil Rights issues are ones you cannot change, where you have no choice, such as your race or a handicap. We are so comprised that we try to make the gospel acceptable to everybody. We are not supposed to make it sweet to folk that it might offend. God said to preach the gospel in season and out of season. Don't make it acceptable; make it available. I'm not a hater; I'm a lover with a standard. God has a standard. Do you?
4. **Not being ashamed reveals Christ in a unique way.** God says if you are not ashamed of Me, and you are walking in the power and the righteousness and are able to stand, I will be revealed in a unique way. Some of you have been in situations where you knew no man – no judge, doctor, lawyer, surgeon, nobody – could get you out of. It had to be God. So what God will do is bless your socks off in such a unique way that folk who don't believe will see a manifestation of Him that will cause them to believe.
5. **Not being ashamed leaves the person you encounter without an excuse.** God says for all of you who are unashamed of Me, who understand that you are salt and light, it is My intention to demonstrate Myself through you in such a way that the unbeliever has no excuse not to believe.

There is a window of opportunity open for those who are not ashamed. And God is calling us, the Body of Christ, in these critical, stormy times, economically, politically and socially. When He opens a window, He needs the salt of the earth and the light of the world – the flavor of relevance – to come forth. All of creation is standing on tip toes, waiting, waiting ... Be the salt that flavors the earth.