

You Can Be the Difference – Impact Your Environment



"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." Matt. 5:13

Salt is a seasoning material that is used to preserve, prevent or resist decay and/or adds flavour to food when applied in appropriate quantity; used for offering as a reminder of people's covenant or contract with God (Lev. 2:13); and a good symbol of God's activity in a person's life because it penetrates, preserves and aids in healing. Only a small quantity of salt is used vis-a-vis the size or weight of the object to be flavoured, preserved or healed (2Kings 2:19-22).

Matt. 5:13 verse can be interpreted to mean that salt is not what we become but what we are as believers. As Christians, we have the capacity to bring sweetness into lives of others, healing and restoration to relationships and marriages, hope where there is despair and sorrow, fairness where there is bias and favouritism and ethical practices where there are unethical practices or corruption. Examples of "human salts" in the Bible include:

- Slave Girl in Naaman's House (2 Kings 5:2-4) – her witness brought healing to Naaman
- David against Goliath (1 Sam. 17:32-33) – he was used to preserve Israel from slavery to Philistines
- Mordecai & Esther against Haman (Book of Esther)- they were used to preserve Jews from destruction in the hands of Haman
- Good Samaritan (Luke 10:33-34) – his help brought healing to a man attacked by robbers

To be a "human salt" requires planning, willing sacrifice and unswerving commitment to God's kingdom. Being "salty" is not an easy endeavour but if a Christian fails to be "salty", he or she is no longer an effective ambassador of God. How does salt achieve its objectives? Salt in a shaker (plastic/glass container) does not impact its environment. Salt achieves its objectives by gradually moving into the environment where it has been placed through a medium. For you, your medium can be works of mercy, compassion, concern, love, display of godliness or sharing the good news of salvation. The act of being salty starts in our thoughts (Phil. 4:8) and manifests in our speech (Col. 4:5-6) and deeds (Mk 7:20-23).

Matthew 5:13 states that if salt as a seasoning has no flavour, it has no value to the person that purchased it for that purpose. Same goes for people of faith if they do not make an effort to affect the world around them in a positive, sweet way as God has purchased us by the blood of Jesus shed on the cross. If we as Christians are inward focused instead of utilising opportunities available to be a blessing to others, to bring forth the best in others around us or to have positive impact on our environment or workplace, we would not fulfill our purpose as salt.

Our workplaces offer us great and varied opportunities to be the salt that God wants us to be as we:

- show kindness to others, act in sympathetic ways and show empathy in our dealings with others (bringing hope when people feel hopeless, depressed, oppressed or cast down (Is. 61:1-3); showing compassion or mercy to people who feel despised)
- pursue excellence in all our activities and live ethically even when no one is able to observe what we do (doing and saying things that are noble, good, honest, excellent, or praise worthy)
- support others as they seek to be the best they can be
- work collaboratively with others to find solutions to challenges or create products and services that bring great rewards to our firms, blessings to our customers or clients and preserves the environment

Be the change that you want in your workplace or community and you will become a positive and effective witness for God in your workplace or community.

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