

TITLE: JUST LIKE SALT [KATULAD NG ASIN]

TEXT: Matthew 5:13

DATE: October 31, 2021

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Big Idea: As believers we are called to be the salt of the earth that will lead people to Christ!
Bilang mga mananampalataya, tayo ay tinawag na maging asin ng sanlibutan na magdadala ng mga tao kay Kristo.

Matthew 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.” NLT

“Kayo ang asin ng lupa. Ngunit kapag ang asin ay nawalan ng alat, paano pa ito muling aalat? Wala itong kabuluhan kundi itapon na lamang at yurakan ng mga tao.” SND

When Jesus gives us the name of "salt", He is reminding us that we have the opportunity and the responsibility to be an influence in the world. Nang tayo ay tinawag ni Hesus na ‘asin’, ipinapaalala Niya na may oportunidad at responsibilidad tayo na impluwensiyahan ang mundo. According to Dictionary.com, *salt of the earth* means “an individual or group considered as representative of the best or noblest elements of society.” So, just like salt...Ayon sa diksiyonaryo, ang pagiging asin ng mundo ay nangangahulugang isang tao o grupo na kumakatawan sa pinaka mainam na bahagi ng lipunan. Kung kaya’t kagaya ng asin...

I. A Believer Provides That Which Is Valuable. [Ang mananampalataya ang nagkakaloob ng isang bagay na mahalaga.]

- The Romans believed that, other than the sun, there was nothing more valuable than salt. In fact, Romans were paid in salt, which is where the phrase “He’s not worth his salt” was coined. Ang mga Romano ay naniniwala na bukod sa araw, ang pinakamahalagang bagay ay ang asin. Sa totoo lang, ito ang ginagamit na pambayad kung kayat may kasabihan na ‘he is not worth his salt’.
- Salt also was used to bind a covenant between two parties. It was a form of notarization. Parties would eat salt in the presence of witnesses to confirm the covenant (cf. 2 Chr 13:5). Ang asin ay ginagamit din na pagpapatibay ng kasunduan ng dalawang partido. Para itong pagpapanotaryo. Ang bawat partido ay kakain ng asin sa harap ng mga saksi para patunayan ang kasunduan.
- Therefore, when Christ called the disciples salt of the earth, it means just as salt was extremely valuable and so were they. Kung kaya’t nang tinawag ni Kristo na asin ang kanyang mga disipulo, ibig sabihin nito ay mahalaga sila.
- You may be small but it does not matter, your value is great; know that your value and worth comes straight from God and He called you the most valuable thing He could think of. Maaaring maliit lang ang tingin mo sa iyo ngunit hindi ito ang mahalaga. Malaki ang halaga mo. Ang iyong halaga ay mula mismo sa Diyos na tumawag sa iyo bilang pinakamahalagang bagay.

II. A Believer Preserves Others From Moral Decay [Ang mananampalataya ang siyang nag-iingat sa iba laban sa bulok na pamumuhay]

- One of the primary uses of salt in the ancient world was as a preserve. There were no ice-machines or refrigerators in those days; therefore, to preserve food, it was placed in a saline solution. In fact, sometimes salt was even used to preserve bodies for their burial. It was a key ingredient used for mummification in Egypt. **Isa sa mahalagang gamit ng asin ay ang mag preserba. Wala pang yelo o ref noon kung kaya't inilalagay sa tubig na hinaluan ng asin ang mga pagkain. May mga pagkakataon din na ginagamit ang asin pang embalsamo ng mga patay para hindi mabulok.**
- This implies that the world is on a progressive path to destruction. They turn to worshiping idols instead of the true God. **Sinasabi dito na ang mundo ay unti unti rin na nabubulok. Ang mga tao ay sumasamba sa diyos diyosan sa halip na sumamba sa tunay na Diyos.**
- They become consumed with sexual immorality. This then leads to practicing and approving homosexuality. **Ang mga tao ay nahumaling na sa imoralidad, na nagdulot ng paggawa at pag-ayon sa homoseksualidad.**
- Romans 1:28-32 “And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what should not be done. They are filled with every kind of unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, malice. They are rife with envy, murder, strife, deceit, hostility. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, contrivers of all sorts of evil, disobedient to parents, senseless, covenant-breakers, heartless, ruthless. Although they fully know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but also approve of those who practice them.”
- In the midst of this world-wide moral decay, believers are salt—a preserving influence on this world. They preserve the world in a negative sense by retarding the decay. But they also preserve it in a positive sense by promoting righteousness. **Sa gitan ng pagkabulok ng mundo, ang mga Kristyano ay asin - may impluensiya sa mundo. Pine-preserba nila sa pribadong paraan**
- How do believers preserve society from moral decay practically? **Paano nila iniingatan ang lipunan?**
 - **Believers preserve others by praying for them. Sa pananalangin para sa iba.** Believers must intercede for their family, church, government, and nation. **Dapat tayong manalangin para sa ating pamilya, iglesya, pamahalaan, at bansa.** When they do this, they preserve it from Satan’s influence and God’s destruction. **Ito ay para maingatan sila mula sa impluwensya ng kalaban.**
 - **Believers preserve others by being a righteous influence on them. Maging mabuting impluwensya sa kanila.** This is done by practicing godly behavior: caring for the weak and vulnerable in society, practicing honesty and integrity, championing righteous causes and condemning sin, etc. When this is done, it will spur hatred and anger in some, but with others, it will draw them to repentance. **Ito ay magagawa sa pamamagitan ng makadiyos na asal: alagaan ang mahina, maging tapat at magkaroon ng integridad, ipaglaban ang makatuwirang layunin, kamuhian ang kasalanan, etc. Ang mga ito ang magdadala ng pagsisisi sa iba.**

- **Sadly, there is the lack of positive influence from the church.** Ang nakakalungkot, kulang sa magandang impluwensya ang simbahan.

When we see the corruption in the world, we must ask, “Where is the remnant? Where is the salt that retards decay and provokes righteousness?” Kapag may nakitang katiwalian, itanong agad: Nasaan ang mga asin ng lipunan na magdadala ng katuwiran?

III. A Believer Promotes Thirst And Flavor In Life. [Ang mananampalataya ang nagdadala ng pagkauhaw at lasa sa buhay.]

A. Salt Promotes Thirst & Add Flavor. Ang asin ay nagdadala ng pagkauhaw at nagdaragdag ng lasa.

- When eating something well-seasoned or spicy, it typically increases one’s thirst. Christians should serve a similar role in the world. Kapag tayo ay kumakain ng masarap o maanghang na pagkain, lalo tayong nauuhaw.
- Everyone claims to have the latest and greatest product which will bring satisfaction; however, it all leaves a person ultimately unsatisfied. Marami ang nagsasabi na mayroon silang produkto na magdudulot ng lubos na kasiyahan ngunit hindi naman pala.
- When the world looks at believers and sees how different they are, it should provoke them to want to know why. When the world sees how believers can go through trials with joy and without complaining, when they are content instead of constantly dissatisfied, when they bless instead of cursing their enemy, when they suffer willingly for righteousness sake, it demonstrates what the world lacks—and draws them to Christ. Kapag nakita ng mundo na kakaiba tayo, aalamin nito kung bakit. Kapag nakita na ang Kristiyano ay masaya sa gitna ng pagsubok, kontento kahit may kakulangan, nagsasabi ng mga mabuting bagay sa halip na isumpa ang kaaway, madadala nito ang mundo sa Panginoon Hesus.

B. Application Question: How can a person grow in saltiness and therefore maximize one’s effectiveness in blessing the world and other believers? Paano lalago ang isang tao sa kanyang pagiging alat at maging lalo pang epektibo sa pagdadala ng biyaya sa mundo?

1. **To grow in saltiness, we must be different.** Maging kakaiba.
Salt must be different than the medium that it is placed on.
If we are just like the world, we will only further their decay, instead of retarding it or promoting positive change. Are you different or just like everybody else? Dapat maging kaiba ang paglalagyan ng asin ng mahayag ang kaibahan nito.
2. **To grow in saltiness, we must allow ourselves to be sprinkled into ungodly places.** Hayaan na mailagay ang sarili sa mga lugar na madilim.
If salt is kept in the salt shaker, it is rendered ineffective.
We must allow ourselves to be placed in areas that we can help bring righteousness. Kapag nanatili sa lalagyan ang asin, nawawalan ito ng saysay. Kailangan itong ilabas at ihalo sa mga lugar na kailangang dalhin sa katuwiran.

C. If Salt Loses Its Flavor Kapag nawalan ng alat ang asin

- What does Christ mean by salt losing its flavor or saltiness? Ano ibig sabihin ng asin na wala nang alat?
- A true believer cannot lose his essential nature as salt, since Christ dwells in him. However, he can lose his effectiveness by mixing with the world. Typically, the process

begins with friendship with the world (James 4:4), then becoming stained by the world (James 1:27), then loving the world (1 John 2:15), and then being fully conformed to the world (Rom 12:2)—where we look no different at all. **Ang isang totoong Kristiyano ay hindi nawawalan ng alat dahil nanahan si Hesus sa kanya. Subalit maaring mawala ang pagiging epektibo nya dahil sa pakikipaghalubilo sa mundo - nakipagkaibigan, namantsahan, at nagmahal na sa mundo hanggang maging kaayon na ng mundo.**

- We must be careful of mixing, as it will not only draw us away from God but also faithful believers. This leads to ineffectiveness in our ministry to the world. **Maging maingat sa pakikipaghalubilo sa mundo dahil maaari tayong ilayo nito sa Diyos at sa mga tapat na mga mananampalataya. Hindi tayo magiging epektibo sa ministeriyo natin sa Diyos.**

DISCUSSION: Pag-usapan

1. Have you ever lost your effectiveness as a Christian, especially during this pandemic?

Dumating na ba ang panahon na hindi ka na naging epektibo bilang Kristiyano?

2. How do you think can you become effective again? Share. **Paano mo kaya maibabalik ang pagiging epektibo mo? Ibahagi.**