

**SALT**  
Matthew 5:13  
By Raymond White

*Matthew 5:13* *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt hath lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is therefore good for nothing, but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men.*

This is a curious metaphor — “Ye are salt.” Certainly Jesus is telling us about ourselves, but what? He also says some salt is savory and some is not, and when it’s not, it’s not good for anything except to throw it out onto the sidewalk where it will at least serve the purpose of deicing the sidewalks so people can walk safely.

But he says nothing about the nature of salt. That, he leaves to our own discernment. Okay then, what is salt like? What does it do? If we are salt, then to understand ourselves, we should understand salt.

1. Salt is valuable. Roman soldiers were paid with salt, and lousy soldiers “weren’t worth their salt.”
2. Salt can become unsalty. Salt is a compound and its molecular structure does not change. But if a bag of salt sits on the ground too long, impurities leach in and the tainted salt takes on the properties of the impurities and loses its savor. When pure, salt is white and glistens. When we’re pure we gleam against the backdrop of a dark world. *1 Peter 1:4* *Be partakers of the divine nature having escaped the corruption of the world through lust.*
3. Salt makes food taste good. *Job 6:6* *Can that which is unsavory be eaten without salt? Is the world a better place, a more palatable place because of us, because of you?*
4. Salt was used for covenants, to seal the deal. Promises we make are important. Those we make to God, to our spouse, to anyone. When we bind ourselves with a promise, we must try extra hard to fulfill our commitment. *2 Chronicles 13:5* *Ought ye not to know that the Lord God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt? This is a covenant that God cannot break.*
5. Salt was used for sacrifice. When you give yourself to God, remember that a gift to God really must be made with pure intent. *Leviticus 2:13* *And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt...*
6. Salt creates thirst. Desert travelers must not dehydrate so they ingest salt to make themselves retain more water. If people thirsted more for truth they might more easily find the living water. *John 7:37* *If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.*
7. Salt heals and disinfects. Ancient doctors didn’t have many medicines, but they had salt and it healed. They even used it to clean up newborn babies. *Ezekiel 16:4* *And as for thy nativity, in the day thou was born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.*

8. Salt stings. Yes salt heals, but it also stings so people don't like salt in an open wound which is sometimes exactly where it needs to go: stinging, healing salt. **2 Corinthians 2:15** *We are unto God a sweet savour of Christ in them that are saved and in them that perish. To one we are the savour of death: to the other the savour of life.* When our message stings, people may be healing. We ought to get into the wounds of the world and sting the sin out of it.
  
9. Salt preserves. We live in a corrupt world, rotting and dying. We are responsible to retard that rotting and to keep the world from going completely corrupt. When God announced that he intended to destroy Sodom, Abraham haggled with God to spare Sodom. He asked God, "But what if you find ten righteous people there, will you destroy it anyway?" God answered Abraham: **Genesis 18:32** *I will not destroy it for ten's sake.* That's when the negotiation began. Abraham then asked, "Well, what about nine? What about eight?" Abraham got God all the way down to five, but then God found only four and so he destroyed Sodom. Still, it was a noble effort of Abraham to try. Had there been just one more, the city would have been saved. How many righteous people does the world need to save itself from God's wrath? Who knows. In any case, the more the better.

So, what's the point? Well, if we are "salt" as Jesus says, then I suppose we should be doing the kinds of things that salt does. Now that you know salt is like, be like that.