

# Salty Christians

Sermon Notes for Feb 12, 2017 at Brentwood



Ps 112:1-9 and Matthew 5:13-20

**You are the salt of the earth:  
if salt has lost its taste,  
how can its saltiness be restored?  
(Matt 3:13a)**

## Provocative Ponderings that Call Forth Our Potential in Christ

- Today's text reminds us of the metaphorical nature of all our thinking about God in the Christian tradition – a metaphor, quite simply, is a way of saying something is like something else – in our text, the followers of Jesus are like salt – but in that connection is a richness and surplus of meaning that is never fully understood by one person, one group, or one generation – God's being and doing are, in this realm of existence at least, beyond our comprehension – so we must approach our understanding of God's revelation in Jesus Christ with humility – while at the same time having a deep confidence in the core affirmation of that revelation – we are the beloved and reconciled friends of God enabled and equipped to participate in that God' mission of justice, peace, and joy for the whole of that God's creation
- Three associations struck me in pondering this text:
  - Salt and safety – the way we use it on our roads and walkways to melt away the dangers of an icy cold – our presence in the world should melt away the cold fears that grip so many in our world today – a steadfast witness to justice, peace, and joy
  - Salt and taste – how it enhances the taste of our food – not too much, mind you – remember that wonderful phrase in so many recipes – “salt to taste” – As Matthew uses this image, not one of world conquest or domination – it is not a vision of everything becoming salt – rather, of the friends and followers of Jesus as an enlivening and enriching presence that enhances, but does not overwhelm, the tastiness of life in this world
  - Salt and ritual – much less familiar for Christians, but well known among Jews – part of the Friday night preparations for the Sabbath – unleavened, unsalted bread dipped in a dish of salt to remind the family of the covenant with the family of Abraham and Sarah – God's presence so they can bless the whole of creation

## At this point in our ponderings, then ...

There is much more meaning in this rich metaphor that we have suggested this morning – I hope we will continue to explore it together as we find ways here at Brentwood to give an account of the hope that is within us, by the grace of Jesus Christ – we don't have to overwhelm or control this world to be faithful to God's calling – rather, this metaphor suggests that we sow our grains of salt into all of life within our circles of influence – what those grains add is the vision of a tastiness spiced with justice, peace, and joy – and to our concerns that our salt may have lost its taste, God's answer is that I have restored that taste in Jesus Christ, the one in whom you find your ongoing saltiness – so come, let us gather in humble confidence for the meal salted by God's covenant

Notes for a sermon preached by Brian Fraser,  
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