

You are the Salt of the Earth

Mt 5:13 — “You are the salt of the earth.” It is *plural* “you” there, meaning the Body of Messiah. It’s not that each Christian is salt to the world. *Salt* here also means *prudence*.

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. (Mt 5:13)

Some of us have been thrown out and trampled underfoot by men because we have lost our salt — our prudence in how we represent ourselves and the Body of Messiah to the world. If it loses its reputation, salt is no good. One person can ruin the reputation of a whole community — one person in whom the salt is no account. It loses its effectiveness. It only takes one who is not salt, who has no salt in himself (Mk 9:50). Then the salt has lost its savor.

Salt is prudence, wisdom, judiciousness, marked by circumspection, discretion, providence, frugality, and ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason; skilled in good judgment and the use of resources; shrewd in the management of practical affairs, and wise in business affairs.

Nehemiah is going to be shrewd in business affairs. He is apt to do it right. Whoever does business affairs in the world has to really be a shrewd man, marked by circumspection. What is providence?

Gader Peretz – An act from the hand of God.

What does judiciousness mean? Being able to judge right, having wisdom. That is who we are, and if we are not that way, we are not our Father’s sons, or we bring shame to Him and discredit the whole community. We are the salt of the earth. *You are*. Christianity is not the salt of the earth. You have to understand that it’s the plural *you*. You must not bring shame to His name.

Chets Barur – It is interesting that circumspection is one aspect of salt. If you have salt you see the overall perspective, you don’t just see your little window of what you have to do and what seems right in your own eyes. You are looking at the overall perspective, even in how your actions could bring disgrace or honor.

That’s right. The business world is probably the place where the most evil is done in the world. Money is the root of all evil.

Our Master said, “I will take the Kingdom away from you [the Jews], and give it to a nation producing the fruit of it.” You can see in judiciousness as being an aspect of salt, that the Jews are the *antithesis* of righteousness and judiciousness. “You are the salt of the earth” — not the Jews, but the Body of Messiah, the disciples He was talking to at that moment. We have to bear the fruit of the Kingdom, the fruit of being judicious, of having salt. We have to understand what our Master Yahshua was talking about there. He was saying that a nation would come forth to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Being salt gives light. It brings light and revelation, understanding, as to who our Master Yahshua is, as opposed to the Christian Jesus.

There is a “negative” shrewdness. We have to be shrewd in a positive way, judicious in our business matters. We have to pray to be that way *before* we do business matters with the world. We have to pray to be judicious *before* we go before the courts to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

What is circumspection? Seeing all around you. Seeing the larger perspective, having prudence and wisdom.

Let your speech always be with grace, always seasoned with salt, so that you will know how to respond to each person. (Col 4:6)

You have to know how to respond to each person for the benefit of others. That's grace, knowing how what you say benefits others. Grace benefits others.

Chets Barur — The verse before that says, "Conduct yourselves with wisdom towards outsiders, making the most of the opportunity," and then it goes on, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt so that you will know how you should respond to each person."

That is exactly right. You see how it is when you are seasoned with salt. Ecc 10:12 says, "Words from the mouth of the wise man are gracious, while the lips of a fool consume him." We have to guard ourselves in that way, which brings us grace, when we are judicious, having circumspection, and being discreet. How would frugality come into the picture?

Gader Peretz — It says in the Proverbs, "Let your words be few, because with the multiplying of your words sin is not absent."

That is right, some people with many words confuse others.

You have to understand that *you* are the salt of the earth. Nobody else is the salt; *you* are. Do you believe that? He's talking to *you*, to *us*. We are the salt of the earth. It can't be Christianity; it can't be the Jews; it can't be the educated fools. There has got to be a people on the earth that is the salt of the earth. I said, "is the salt" because we are *one* people. As a corporate body, we are the salt of the earth.

Salt means skilled in good judgment. How can you be skilled in good judgment? You have to pray for that good judgment in the use of our resources, in the money we use for the café. We have to be skilled in the use of resources. We have to be resourceful. We were very resourceful in the beginning, taking nails and straightening them out, and using them. We couldn't have gone to the hardware store to get them. We couldn't afford them. We have to be wise in our business affairs. We have to be wise in the jobs we are getting — very wise. We can't take on too much or we will lose our salt. Once we lose our salt, it can't be salted again. Once we lose our reputation, it is over with.

If you don't take this in, you are not included in the salt of the earth. You are not a part of the salt. It didn't say the pepper, it said the salt.

Chanowk — When we were up in Hiddenite, Soreph Gamaliel was talking about how our Father trying to bring about a new culture on the earth. I thought about how salt preserves things and how that culture our Father is trying to bring about is very sensitive to bacteria. The littlest bacteria can destroy the culture. Salt keeps it clean, keeps the bacteria out, so that our Father can continue to build His new culture. The other thing I thought was that salt in food doesn't just stay on top, but it permeates your whole bowl. That is how I want salt to be in my life — completely inside and out of my life. I want it to permeate my life.

It is going to permeate the earth.

Nun — When Yônêq said, "You are the salt of the earth," he went on to talk about the corporate expression and witness. Then he referred to Mt 21:43, that we are to bear the fruit of the Kingdom. We are the Body of Messiah. We have to bear the fruit of the Kingdom. It has to start in each one of us. If we, individually, have salt in ourselves, then it will be a corporate expression. But if one of us fails to have salt in ourselves, that balance of

keen awareness, alertness, sensitivity to right judgments, attentiveness to others, and hearing from the least of the brothers — all those things make up the ingredients of salt — if those elements are missing in us individually, then it is going to obscure our witness, it is going to hinder us being the salt of the earth. We each have to have that desire in ourselves. I have heard somewhere that salt is fertilizer on the manure pile, part of the active ingredient that will cause the soil to grow.

They threw the bad salt on the manure pile, didn't they?

ha-êmeq — They didn't take the good salt from the table, but if something happened to it, they said, "At least it is good for the manure pile."

Nun — Then Yônêq talked this morning about it being thrown out and trampled underfoot. That is what we are supposed to do with our enemies. We are not supposed to be those who are trampled underfoot. If we lose our salt we become subject to another dominion, another power. Then we end up being thrown out, disqualified from being that witness that our Master actually died to obtain.

The whole world is waiting to see that salt, to have a taste of that salt. Our Father doesn't want it to be trampled underfoot. The Jews were thrown out, disqualified; their enemies had dominion over them for centuries because of all their idolatries. They were disqualified, defunct. But with us, our Father has the opportunity to bring about the close of this age —*if* we have salt in ourselves.

Hakam — When our Master Yahshua said, "You are the salt of the earth," those men who were with Him, who received that in their hearts, didn't just go out and say, "Oh, we are the salt of the earth." They realized that He was making something available to them. That is really why we need the word of God. It engenders faith for us to turn to our Father and ask Him for that salt. Otherwise, we can't be transformed. People are really amazed when they are touched by the salt. They are amazed at what is going on among us. Salt is something going on among us; it is working among us. It is not just one person. That is why it takes every person to hear and cry out for that salt to be activated. Without the Holy Spirit it can't be activated. Without us going to our Father, it can't be activated, and so then we just look like anybody else in the world. We'll end up shaming our Master, losing our salt, and being like any other group that came along.

People say, "I have never seen anything like this in my whole life. You are working together like an ant colony or a beehive." They can look down on an ant colony and see every individual ant totally engaged in work. It is amazing the zest they have. Even Aunt Betty said, "I've never seen anything like this in all my life," and you know, she's lived a long time. She saw it. It is so wonderful how everyone is working together and has salt and light. People ask, "Who *ARE* you people? How is it that you can do this and work together in such unity?" This has always been what people say when they come in. It is so wonderful to hear it. You just don't realize who you are. You are the salt and light of the world.

ha-êmeq — Yesterday I was in the fabric store getting fabric for all the curtains. I told the lady cutting the fabric about the deli. She said, "Oh, I know about that café. I go by it everyday. I see the copper and how you are bending it." She said, "Everybody at the office is talking about it." But you know, that building across the street is going up, too. There are a bunch of men working over there, but she didn't notice those men. I don't know her at all. She is just someone from the USA, but she is watching the sons of God, and for some reason, it is the talk of the office. It should be on the headlines of the local newspaper.

We'll go into a thrift store way over in the next town, and we'll say, "We are building a Yellow Deli," and they'll say, "A Yellow Deli! Oh, I never had a sandwich like that in all my life. There was a little Yellow Deli in Trenton, and I got a sandwich there..." People say this everywhere. We've got to reproduce that sandwich,

and not disappoint them. We were down at the Four Bridges event two years ago and a lady got onto us because we weren't using onion rolls in our sandwich, and she said, "This is a *Deli Rose* and you don't have it on an onion roll! What are you doing?" We forgot. That was thirty years ago and she remembers.

ha-êmeq — She had salt, and she remembered.

That is another thing we do: We sneak a little salt in there. We pre-salt it a little bit, and they love it. Even the people who say they don't like salt, they love it. It's not bad for you; it's good salt. It is just like our bread; we put a little honey in it and people say it is the best bread they've had. So, we use a little salt in our sandwiches.

We have to get back down to the Deli and be the salt of the earth down there, the light of the world. You are the light of the world. No one else is the light of the world. We have to understand that, and we have to live that way

We have to thank our Father that He has seen us fit to be worthy to be the light of the world. There is no other light. No one can receive our Master Yahshua except through one of us. Is that pride? I don't want to be proud, but I want us to have a good sense of understanding.

ha-êmeq — That is where the enemy comes against us. He is not really coming against us for putting up a building like that one over there. He's coming because that man said, "I've never worked on a job where people don't yell at each other." They swear at each other. The man said, "I've never worked with people where there was real unity." That is what the evil one is coming against, that unity. That is the light — that we stay together. It is such a beautiful work.