



Salty Christians

2nd Saturday of Lent

Mark 9:49-50

For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

Salt enhances flavor in foods, and preserves foods from spoiling, so, if it were possible for salt to lose its saltiness, its essential character, what good would it be? These two verses from Mark's Gospel serve as a kind of summary of the sayings that have preceded them. Christians, whose lives are devoid of service to others, are not open to Christians who are different, who do not care for those who are young in their faith, or who lack self-discipline in their daily walk are like salt that has lost its flavor. They have lost the characteristics that distinguish them from the surrounding world. They have denied their reason for being, their very purpose as disciples of Jesus.

As disciples we are called to be in the world but not of the world. Who we are, the values we hold, the priorities we set, the lives we live and enjoy are all shaped not by the standards of the world around us but by the standards of the kingdom of heaven—the world as it is coming to be within the gracious rule of God in Jesus Christ.

Remaining faithful is not always a simple or easy task. There is much that would divert our attention and draw us away from our calling. Indeed, if for you being a Christian is always easy, without cost or struggle for you, it might well be wise to spend some time in prayerful self-examination as a means of measuring your sodium content. Jesus wants us to be *salty* Christians.

Prayer: Lord of all, help me in this day and in all days to remember who I am and whose I am, and with your help to live as one who recognizes that I am your child and my Savior's disciple. Amen.