

I. “The *earth*” is *dead* *meat*

Matt 4:25; 5:1-12

You are the salt of the earth . . .

A. The earth “*died*” when *sin* entered

Rom 5:12; Gen 2:15-17;  
Gen 3:6-7; 5:5;  
Eph 2:1; Rom 8:2, 19-21;  
John 3:7

B. *Dead* things *rot*

Jer 13:1-10; Gen 4:1ff;  
Gen 6:1ff; 11:1ff; 19:1ff;  
Gal 5:19-21

II. Disciples *salt* the *earth*

Num 18:19; Lev 2:11-13;  
II Kings 2:19-22

A. They are the *dead* *opposite* of the *world*

Eph 2:1,5; II Cor 3:18

B. Salt *restrains* the *rot*

II Thess 2:1-7; John 10:10;  
Matt 11:23; Col 4:5-6;  
II Sam 21:10

III. If *disciples* aren't “*salty*,” everybody *loses*

A. The earth *rots* more *rapidly*

B. *Unsalty* disciples get “*Mr. T*”

Judges 9:45

## Care Group Questions

### “Dead Opposites”

Text: Matt 5:13a

Dave Bechtel

October 14, 2007

1. Do you have a “salt story” that you can share (e.g. in a wound, in an eye, too much on food, a practical joke, etc.)?
2. Since salt’s primary function in Jesus’ day was the preservation of food, especially meat, what is Jesus inferring about the world when He says it “needs salt”?
3. How did the situation come about that the world needs to be salted to preserve it? Without salt, what is the world’s destiny?
4. What can the world do to “stop the decay”? What is God’s plan?
5. To whom is Jesus speaking in this verse? Are there still some around to whom this truth applies?
6. How does this function of disciples depend upon the previous verses (the beatitudes)?
7. According to this verse, what happens if disciples are not living the beatitudes: to the earth? to the disciples? What would it look like for disciples not be living the beatitudes?
8. How can you personally be “more salty”? In what arenas has the Lord placed you to be salt?
9. Bonus: Review the beatitudes and the difference each one has from its equivalent worldly value and the “flow” of how each one leads to the next.

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