



**TAUPO
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

To Be A Transforming
Community Committed
To Jesus Christ

SERMON STUDY NOTES

25 April 2021

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SALTING THE COMMUNITY

Reading Mat 5:13-16 *“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavour? Can you make it useful again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.*

1. A major use for salt in the time of Christ was to prevent things from going rotten. Think back over the past 20 years and discuss some of the main areas of social and moral decay in our society.
2. It is wrong for us as Christians to withdraw from the world. This is the same as putting the salt in one basket and the fish in the other. The greater the extent of the mixing the more powerful the influence. Discuss.
3. Jesus sent out his disciples in twos. Christ allowed his influence to extend into all areas of society and mixed with misfits and undesirables. How can we be careful not to get caught up in the ways of the world like Lot's wife?
4. What about our children? At what age do they become salt?

5. *1 Tim 2:2 Pray for kings and all who are in authority that we may lead a quiet peaceable life in all goodness and reverence.* It is easy to become critical and negative, to withdraw our support and want things to fail, rather than pray for them as we are instructed. Have you felt like this?
6. “Salt brings out the flavour in other things”. “There are many stale tasteless things that need to be freshened by the presence of Christian men and women. There are some people whose presence in a room brings a freshness”. Name some.
7. Salt can be used to neutralise acids. There are many bitter acids in this world that we as salt can help to break down and neutralise. For example, the acid of criticism, judgement, anger, resentment. Do we help break these down or add to them?
8. “Salt is an excellent sterilization agent. The church needs to have a healing ministry in today’s world. To bring healing to broken bodies, broken hearts, broken homes, broken hopes and dreams.” Is this a major focus of our church?
9. Too much salt destroys flavour. Examples are being proud and self-righteous, insisting on doing things our way when we don’t really understand a situation. Making laws and rules more important than love. Discuss.

10. A destructive force in the church today are Christians who have lost their saltiness. Every Christian is a witness for or against the changing power of Jesus. Discuss

Salt represents Christ's own life - His spirit, His character. It is only as the salt of God swells in us that we are able to salt society.