

This week...

Scripture: Luke 14:34-35

Monday Luke 14:34 *“Salt is good,”*

Jesus very matter-of-factly states that salt is good. Spend some time thinking about His statement, and what exactly is good about salt. For fun, read up on the history of salt and its effect on the world and our lives today. (*Hint: preservative, flavor, influence, healing, cleansing, purification, penetration.*)

Tuesday Luke 14:34-35 *“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.”*

This statement might be a little confusing to some, because have you ever known salt to lose its saltiness? Salt we use today is much more refined for purity. In Jesus' day salt was mixed with all sorts of impurities. With exposure to moisture most of the salt would dissolve and wash out of the mixture leaving only the filler or impurities behind. Meditate on your life and character. What impurities exist? Are there things that you are exposed to or partake in that cause you to lose your “saltiness”? How valuable is your witness when it becomes spiritually tasteless or useless to affect those around you?

Wednesday Mark 9:50b *“Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”*

Most often we think of our effect on the world and the lost when we hear, *“You are the salt of the earth.”* However, Jesus reminded His disciples that it was important to be salt with each other. What might He have in mind for believers being “salty” in

the body of Christ? Can you think of any real life applications to His words in Mark 9?

Thursday Colossians 4:6 *“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”*

“Conversation” in this context may also be interpreted as “words”, “thoughts”, “reasoning”, or “motives”. That adds a lot of color to our understanding of what Paul is saying. What are some examples of “conversation” that is full of grace? What are your words, thoughts, and motives full of? Can you readily identify how they are seasoned with salt?

Friday Luke 14:34-35 *“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.”*

Spend time in prayer asking God to show you where you have lost your effectiveness as salt of the earth. Write down what He reveals, but leave some extra space below each thought. Then spend the remainder of your time listing the ways that you must adjust your life and thoughts to be salt that pleases our Lord; salt that fulfills its original purpose. Be specific as you think about your time alone, with family and friends, with strangers, and with your brothers and sisters at church.