

## Taste Test

Matthew 5:1-4, 11-13

Salt was a commodity.

Salt was necessary.

Block salt eventually became tasteless.

Disciples are "salt" to the world.

- Humility (v. 3)
- Tears (v. 4)

Nehemiah 1:4 "When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven."

- "Next world" focus (v. 12)

Christ was concerned.

Matthew 13:22 "...and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."

There will be warnings (many).

"Secular, popular culture is dissolving Christianity.  
We believed for a time that mainstream culture  
would reinforce our faith.  
This hasn't actually been true for a very long time."  
– Rod Dreher

What shall we do?

1. Real and deepening experience with God.  
(Psalm 34:8; Hebrews 6:4-6)
2. New priority on the Spirit.
3. New honesty and accountability.
4. Trust in God's justice.
  - a) He will "let them go". (Romans 1)
  - b) He will actively love them. (Matthew 5:45)
  - c) He will offer His people as an alternative. (Matthew 5:14)
  - d) Judgement will come and a new fair world.

**Matthew 5:1-4, 11-13 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. <sup>2</sup>He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

<sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.