

Matthew 5:13 ~ “Independent” Study ~ The Garden ~ 1/18/22

Please feel free to look things up online and discuss with your neighbors! We'll discuss it all together briefly when I'm back next week, Lord willing! I wish I could be with you today! ~ Kacie Gene

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.” Matthew 5:13 ESV

- (1) Who is Jesus' teaching directed at? (Matthew 5:1)

- (2) What was salt used for according to these verses: Job 6:6-7, Exodus 30:34-37, Leviticus 2:13?

- (3) What other uses of salt can you come up with? (Remember, you're allowed to use the internet, and you're encouraged to talk with your neighbors!)

- (4) When was salt a bad thing? (Deuteronomy 29:22-25, Psalm 107:33-34, Zephaniah 2:9)

- (5) Would it be easy or hard to chemically change true actual salt (NaCl)? How stable is it?

- (6) Can a true believer lose their salvation? (John 5:24, John 6:37-40, John 10:28-30, Romans 8:28-30, Ephesians 4:30, 1 Peter 1:3-5)

[Mostly rhetorical questions] So how could salt lose its saltiness? Perhaps by being mixed with too many other impurities...? Can the part that actually *is* true salt stop being salt? If it actually stopped being salt, then they'd be able to dispose of it in their gardens or farmland, right? Why would it need to be discarded where people are walking ("trampled underfoot")?

(7) Let's think of this another way.... Are there things believers can do that would make them not "taste" or "function" like Jesus' disciples?

(Matthew 5:17-19, Romans 7:21-23, 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, Ephesians 4:30, 1 Thessalonians 5:19, James 4:1-4, 1 John 1:8)

(8) Instead of trying to think of how we can STOP being "salty," what are things believers can do to STAY "salty"? In other words, how can we NOT become useless? (John 15:1-5, Romans 12:2, Galatians 5:16-17, Colossians 3:1-16)

(9) What do YOU need to do to stay salty?