

01102021 Salt *This is what following Jesus is all about...* You will embark upon an incredible journey... As Jesus leads us we will travel farther and higher than we thought possible... we will be stretched in ways that make us uncomfortable; we will meet traveling companions we never thought we would and grow to love them like we never thought we could..., we will experience more adventure, overcome more challenges, endure more hardships, experience great highs and the lowest lows yet we will Change is the only constant in this life... that no matter how much we have experienced, no matter how much we have learned there is different and more to come..

We embrace the reality that what ever terrain I am traversing ...I will make it through... and when it looks like the end of the road...it's a bend in the road...that there is always farther to go, and more to grow, and most importantly we learn arrival comes at the end and only our King knows when that is.

Between the entering the Journey with Jesus and our arrival into the Kingdom of Heaven...we begin to understand we are on an earthly mission with a heavenly purpose...

Yet this Journey has much frustration...and the reason is that God is eternal and we are temporal....our understanding is very limited because of that difference.

The minute you give your circumstances the power to alter your view of God...you no longer believe in the all powerful, all knowing, all wise, sovereign God of the Bible.

God has the long view in mind and we have the short view...let me give you an example of what I mean....

do you remember "Connect the dots"? in case you don't...."Connect the Dots" was a piece of paper or a page with a series of numbered dots. You find do 1

and draw a line to connect it to dot 2 and so on and so on...Elementary coloring pages may have only 15-20 dots to connect . More advanced pages might have hundreds. Elementary connect the dot pages often reveal the drawing before you even begin to connect the dots.

show the elementary image.... don't you wish life was that easy to decipher...one one dot connecting to another in an simple and plain fashion, no surprises, not to many dots with the image revealed quickly and easily. little to no patience required.

The more advanced pages with hundreds of dots make little sense, looks random, disorganized and messy and time consuming.

show the complicated image...

But once you connect the dots and step back, the image drawn by simply connecting dots makes sense. There are times connecting the dots makes little sense because the dots to connect are not right next to each other. Perhaps to connect dot 20 to dot 21. You have to search the page to find dot 21 on the opposite side of the page and draw a line that covers most of the page. and some times there are jagged little dash marks between dots...and one may be three quarters through the connecting of the dots and the image is still not able to be made out....

You get where I am going...the all powerful God has the picture he wants drawn...and has designed all the dots in the arrangement from one to completion he wants....and has the dots in the exact sequence he wants them to be connected... and he knows exactly the time it will take for the picture to be completed.

The minute you give your perspective on the way the dots should go, is the moment you are drawing a different picture than God. Than god has to erase your line and redirect the line.

Do you realize that in the long view of God picture of creation, and salvation our whole life...may just encompass one dot and possibly a line to another? the same with world events and governments?

*Proverbs 20:24 The LORD directs our **steps**, so why try to understand everything along the way? **a dot moving in line to another dot can never understand the whole picture***

Yet God is deeply involved in the details of your dot!

*Psalms 37:23 The LORD directs the **steps** of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives*

So what are we to do?

*Proverbs 2:20 So follow the **steps** of the good, and stay on the paths of the righteous.*

last week we talked about Jesus calling us light ...we are lights in the darkness of a world blindly trying to make their own picture...of what is right and good...constantly making their own dots and lines..which produces chaos... we shine our light on the path or line of righteousness...for all to see and some to join.

Today we examine our roles as salt...whether were in the dot or on the move in a line heading to another dot... in the slow march toward God's completed picture.

Let's get something clear here...since God is the author of the world's connect the dot picture ...and he will not fail to get it completed as he drew it and in the sequence he ants itit is a win/win... you will never give up more than you will receive...

The regrets we will have at the end of our lives will be that we didn't trust God more or trust God sooner, trust God with what we don't understand,

or not trusting enough to take advantage of the opportunities God sent our way understand you have been strategically place on the dot you occupy and the line or process that you are moving you to the next dot ...in the picture God is drawing. it is infinitely larger than you think or even what you ask!

Eph 3:20 ²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. ²¹ Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

Whatever we think should be done...he can do infinitely more... and will continue on in every generation forever and ever

when he does more that we ask that also means he does not do what we ask sometimes because he has a longer view in mind what we asked for in our shorter view....and to accomplish that he cannot answer that prayer the way we want him too.

So we are on mission to connect the dots in our lives and time in History... and Jesus defines that mission this way...

listen Jesus gave his followers this description of them... and he gave it in the context of what his people are to this world...not what they would become but what they are....salt and light to this world..

Matt 5: 13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

Jesus said you guys are the real deal...you are salt to this world...so let what you are be displayed....if you lose who you are...what value to the world are you?

1)Salt is an essential life promoting and sustaining mineral. that is what we are...

To us today salt is something taken for granted, in fact most of us never even think about it until we either cook or eat...or have to limit its intake for health reasons...but let me share a couple of facts with you about the importance of salt to life...it is literally life...

Salt or sodium chloride is extremely important ...it is an essential element in the diet of all human and animal and plant life. Salt is made up of sodium and chloride ..sodium and chlorine tightly bond together and is soluble only in water and a very few other fluids.

- **Salt is odorless but has a distinctive taste... Most biological tissues and body fluids contain a varying amount of salt.**
- **The concentration of sodium ions in the blood is directly related to the regulation of safe body fluids**
- **Saline 0.9% sodium chloride in water is called normal saline... Its what they give you at the hospital to replace fluids, to treat dehydration and for intravenous therapy and to prevent hypovolemic shock.**
- **Salt is conductive so is capable of carrying electrical current and is also called “Electrolytes” The average American consumes 7 pounds of salt a year and 500 pounds during their lifetime.**
- **It’s industrial and other uses are almost without number.**
- **Salt has great current as well as historical interest..**
- **Throughout history salt was one of the valuable commodities known to man...salt was taxed from as far back as the 20th century BC in china. During Jesus’ time salt was used as currency...hence the term salary... “sal” salt and “solde”**
- **Salt served as money at various times and places, and it has been the cause of bitter warfare and until the 1900’s salt was one of the prime movers of national economies and wars. It played roles in most every conflict... high tax on salt was a contributing cause of the French**

revolution ...the English attempted a salt embargo against the colonist during the American revolution, and many, many more.

- Humans are unusual among the primates in secreting large amounts of salt by sweating... And the saying..."he is not worth his salt" can be trace to Greece where slave were traded for salt...
- The Romans also salted their vegetables...hence the term ...salad
- The French gave us the word soldier... whose root is salt...a soldier was salt paid...or allotted money to purchase salt..
- Many cities throughout history were founded because of their proximity to salt mines...and both Cincinnati and Detroit are on top of active salt mines.
- The ocean is 3.5% salt and if it were evaporated the salt remaining would make a 180 mile high wall one mile thick all the way around the equator...with 90% of that salt being pure table salt.

So ... Salt is life giving and life sustaining... we are life giving love and hope to this world..in other words Hope dealers to this world...because we love people...

2) But it is something else... salt is a preservative... it is called aseptic...it halts decay... It is one of the most effective and widely used of all food preservatives... it was a key ingredient used to preserve Egyptian mummies, and in halting and slowing decay in numerous ancient civilizations burial rites.

- **Jesus says you are salt to this world ...wherever you are decay should be halted... Which means you must be placed in the midst of that which is decaying... which means that the decay in you has been halted previously...hense we will have suffered loss or decay in the same ways that we are now used to halt further decay in others.**
- **Thus our commanality creates a platform of Influence.. You gain the right to be listend too...and the power to halt further decay** in other words providing options to people regarding their life and lifestyle....to meet God

- **Look we live in a corrupted world becoming even more corrupted...the news media and our politicians sells fear and panic daily.....**
- **So when Jesus speaks of us as being the salt of the earth... he speaks of us as a gift to the world of extreme value and importance ..and as an essential promoting and sustaining life... and if we are not that then what is our value to the world?**

3) Salt is a flavor enhancer...food without salt is insipid...blah... Salt is Resilient it add flavor to anything it is poured on..... Christianity is to life what salt is to food...Christianity lends flavor to life... yet many in the world have equated Christianity with sucking the flavor out of life...

- **Listen Life is rife with hurt, disappointment, betrayal, pain, unexpected trouble, derailed plans and dashed hopes which rob people of peace and joy.**
- **We are not called to be pessimists...we are the bearers of good news...there is Hope for the hurting... a home for the Lost...forgiveness for the sinner... belonging to the rejected ...Love for the lonely... freedom for those in bondage....**
- **Just as God comforts us...**

2CO 1:3 ³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. ⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

The most valuable gift, talent, commodity you have to give this world is YOU as a conduit to Jesus

- **You had better be sold on you!! All your training , accomplishments, skills...are not the most important thing you have to offer...the most important is you!!**
- **The truth is you are God's salt...and in that ...you create the opportunity to give others the knowledge of God...filling this earth**

with his Glory...that he is for you warts and all...and he is for others warts and all

- Joy is found not when things go well for us ...but joy is found when things are well in us!

Paul writes in First Thessalonians 5: ¹⁶ Always be joyful. ¹⁷ Never stop praying. ¹⁸ Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

- This joy, prayer, and thanksgiving should characterize the life of the Christian. This is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus!; this is how God wants us to live.
- This is good salt poured out of the salt shaker... "Always be Joyful" does not mean that we are to paste a fake smile on our faces no matter what is going on in our lives or the lives of those we love.
- It means that we are to remain steadfast in our knowledge that God is our strength and comfort, support and completely in control no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in....

Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation.

If your on a dot...sprinkle everyone also on that do with salt... life giving , decay halting, flavor enhancing salt.

If your moving on the line to the next dot...and you are confused where it is...enjoy the journey...you getting there is assured ...and bless those with salt who are also on that process.

always keep the Long view in mind! God picture is Massive and complicated and you are only a dot on it!

Luke 10: 2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field..."

interestingly Jesus said pray for workers not harvest...it is far easier to pray for the harvest than get in the mix of harvesting..... because you have to actually get involved...

When we pray what God wants ...we always get it... when you pray lord help to love others...that is always his will...so you will get hard to love people...when you ask to be a better person...you will be stretched in very uncomfortable ways to become better...and not just for you, but to increase your harvest...your influence in a greater amount of people...and that is scary...and Jesus addressed that...in the next verse...

³ **Go!** *I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.*

- When you go ..you will feel and rightly so totally inadequate..and scared get used to it
- In fact if you feel capable...like a piece of cake ...probably not God leading...

I believe Jesus was not only describing the toughness of the situation when he described it as lambs going among wolves, he was giving them the spiritual posture he wanted them to assume. They were not to go with a plan of attack like a pack of wolves, but in a spirit of love, humility and peace. Gentle as a lamb..

It is pretty easy to follow God when his will and our will line up...it is a whole other story when his leading takes us into the lions den...the furnace fire...so that when we come out...we have a greater testimony to share

Let me share something with you Jesus said:

MT 11: 12 And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it. NLT

You see...The Kingdom of Heaven moves forward against much opposition

- Those willing to move forward with the Kingdom will the force it takes to overcome opposition... thy will experience it...
- *John had to fight his inner voices of doubt, disappointment, confusion, being beat up and burnt out... we have to fight ours...*
- *He like all of us was made up of strengths and weaknesses*
- *Faith and doubt...sinner and saint..*
- *Comprehending some things clearly and some dimly...some not at all*
- *But he sought the Lord in his doubt...when he felt like a failure...may we do the same..*
- **With his greatest fear...he ran to Jesus...he thought he had missed his purpose...but he was not giving in...**

You know we would be better off right today...**if we understood this truth...**

Some of your greatest fears will become your Reality...

- **why? is that a great truth...**Because some of them already have become your reality...and look we are still here ...and we are OK...and through many of them we have grown and become better people...
- Which in reality makes them not fears or failures...but stepping stones...
- Think about it...think of something you dreaded happening that happened...
- It changes you...and some good things came from it...not all perhaps but many...
- We learned, we were stronger than we thought, could endure more than we thought bearable...we went on when we thought we could not...we understand the human condition In greater ways that we understood before...
- though horrible as it was or is, it was not the end us as we thought it would be...before it happened
- So what is the purpose of God allowing us to go through these things? we become more capable in the mission of the God...to make us more effective in the Harvest field... what does that look like...Salt and light last week light this week salt..

We must be able to adapt and overcome...either our habits or God will rule us

- Character is revealed by Crisis...we grow only through pain...you grow your relationships grow
- Your Credibility is determined in pain...Credibility is not about what you say or even what you start...it is obtained by how you handle crisis

Resilient ...Resilient people add value because they don't get stuck in the problem Being resilient teaches us to be good stewards with God's highest creation...PEOPLE Christianity is to life what salt is to food...Christianity lends flavor to life...

- The tragedy is that so often people have connected Christianity with just the opposite... **they overcome it by getting into solution**

- Life is rife with hurt, disappointment, betrayal, pain, unexpected trouble...
- We must be able to adapt and overcome...either our habits or God will rule us
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Being resilient teaches us to be good stewards with God's highest creation...PEOPLE

Christianity is to life what salt is to food...Christianity lends flavor to life...

- The tragedy is that so often people have connected Christianity with just the opposite...
- They have equated Christianity with sucking the flavor out of life...
- **Joy is found not when things go well for us ...but joy is found when things are well in us!**

Paul writes in First Thessalonians 5:16-18 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- This joy, prayer, and thanksgiving should characterize the life of the Christian. It is God's will for the believer (see v. 18); this is how God wants us to live.
- **"Rejoicing always"** does not mean that we are to paste a fake smile on our faces no matter what is going on in our lives or the lives of those we love.
- **It means that we are to remain steadfast in our knowledge that God is our strength and comfort, support and completely in control no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in....**

Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation.

- Yet, We often live under a cloud of disappointment when we could be walking in the light of joy. **What has robbed so many of us of our joy?**
- Because we believe oftentimes the same lie that people who do not know God do...that Joy is dependent on favorable circumstances...that our attitude is dependent on external circumstances..So how do we live in a deep sense of Joy despite whatever circumstances we find ourselves?..it is contagious

end

Jeremiah 29:7 ... seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

5) Be Authentic!..there is no value to fake...or as Popeye said "I am what I am and that is all that I am...said Popeye the sailor man!!" Authenticity, means a union of speech and action, a Harmonizing of Word and Deed. . . that's what the world is looking for when it comes to our life..

The most valuable gift, talent, commodity you have to give this world is YOU as a conduit to Jesus

- **You had better be sold on you!! if not you will present the fake you! because the real me...the authentic me..seems like it is not enough...**
- **All your training , accomplishments, skills...are not the most important thing you have to offer...the most important is you!! how many of us have witnessed people with amazing skill...but they were a problem...**
- **You want great people skills..be a person ! it is called "authenticity"**
- **The truth is it is all you will have have...and in that ...you create the opportunity to give others the knowledge of God...filling this earth with his Glory...that he is for you warts and all...**
- **This is what Jesus said about his followers..... he speaks of us as a gift to the world of extreme value and importance ..and as an essential promoting and sustaining life, adding a god flavor where ever we are..... and if we are not that then what is our value to the world? there is none...we are not being who we are...may it never be.. Jesus put it this way...**

MT 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt 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.

- **if salt claims to be salt in the container it better be salt when it is poured out...or it is a liar and of no value and adds no value.....that is what authenticity is all about...**
Salt or sodium chloride is extremely important ...it is an essential element in the diet of all human and animal and plant life.
- Salt is made up of sodium and chloride ..sodium and chlorine tightly bond together and is soluble only in water and a very few other fluids.
- It is an essential life promoting and sustaining mineral.
- Salt is odorless but has a distinctive taste
- Most biological tissues and body fluids contain varying amounts of salt.
- **The concentration of sodium ions in the blood is directly related to the regulation of safe body fluids**
- Saline 0.9% sodium chloride in water is called normal saline...what they give you at the hospital to replace fluids, to treat dehydration and for intravenous therapy and to prevent hypo-vol-emic shock.
- **Salt is conductive so is capable of carrying electrical current and is also called "Electrolytes"...The average American consumes 7 pounds of salt a year and 500 pounds during their lifetime.**
- Salt's industrial and other uses are almost without number.
- Humans are unusual among the primates in secreting large amounts of salt by sweating...therefore it must be replenished regularly. **give and receive**
- Throughout history salt was one of the valuable commodities known to man...salt was taxed from as far back as the 20th century BC in china. During Jesus' time salt was used as currency...hence the term salary... "sal" salt and "solde"
- The Romans also salted their vegetables...hence the term ...salad
- The French gave us the word soldier... whose root is salt...a soldier was salt paid...or allotted money to purchase salt..
- **Many cities throughout history were founded because of their proximity to salt mines...and both Cincinnati and Detroit are on top of active salt mines.**
- **The ocean is 3.5% salt and if it were evaporated the salt remaining would make a 180 mile high wall one mile thick all the way around the equator...with 90% of that salt being pure table salt.**

- **Salt is what is called aseptic...it halts decay... ..wherever you are decay should be halted...you will not change a corrupt heart but your influence will help stop it's spread... Salt adds flavor...we should add great value to life...**
 - **Listen...There is an cleansing pain to honest reflection? are you still Salt when poured out of the salt shaker...**

Which leads us to number six...

6) We add value by being Resilient ...Resilient people add value because they don't get stuck in the problem they overcome it by getting into solution

- Life is rife with hurt, disappointment, betrayal, pain, unexpected trouble...
- We must be able to adapt and overcome...either our habits or God will rule us
- Character is revealed by Crisis...we grow only through pain...you grow your relationships grow
- Your Credibility is determined in pain...Credibility is not about what you say or even what you start...it is obtained by how you handle crisis
- **Being resilient teaches us to be good stewards with God's highest creation...PEOPLE**
Jeremiah 12: 5 "If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble[a] in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?"

- **Resilient people can be counted on when the going is rough..for they can handle change...**
- Being Resilient takes courage...to keep moving in the face of obstacles
- Resilient people add value because they don't get stuck in the problem they overcome it by getting into solution
- **Resilient make room to adapt...they expect the unexpected!!**

Story of Mike Tyson... Mike Tyson one of the greatest boxers of all time was preparing for one of his title defenses when his opponent was asked how he was preparing for his fight with the champ...he said oh I have a great strategy...boy do I have a plan...When Mike was informed of his opponent stating he has a great fight plan for Mike...Mike Tyson in his high squeaky voice.."Everyone has a plan till they get punched in the face!"

Who are you when your plans get punched in the face... Resilience is the difference between intent and impact—you can have good intentions, but that doesn't always translate into helpful, gracious impact." The kind of impact you have is determined by what comes out of you when side swiped! **Resilient people add Value!!**

- **God created us all to be more successful in this life...Because anybody can give...**
- Remember your satisfaction will come from your place in filling the earth with Value!!
- **You are a one of a kind master piece of God... this gift of you should do wonders for your self- confidence and create high expectations...you have not been created for a meager existence...**

*EPH 2: 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do***

lets break it down... For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus (**we have received the best...Gods workmanship!**) **to do good works (to give..value added to people)** which God prepared in advance for us to do (**He again gives to us to give others**)...wash and repeat!!

- If you want to Improve you and the world around you?...
- **Questions to ask yourself... How can I find a way to serve more people? Why?**
- Because that which helps others Helps you...
- **Then ask the even better question.....How can I exceed people's expectations and thereby exceed my own personal expectations?**
- **Then take your current limitation and put it on your agenda as a job to do, as a thing to figure out, get help and make happen.**
- **Then Say to your self...I can become that person who could accomplish those things.**Because God will add to me that I may add to others!!
- Adding Value is simply starting with yourself, if you yourself you don't have to be someone else or putting on an act-or try to behave as someone says you should. You have no possibility of truly adding to others...

End

- Add value!! where you are prosper it add value to it...and and you too will prosper
- today

3. Adding Value ...creates a platform of Influence..Adding value may feel foolish, may even look foolish...but do the thing anyway!

When you the person are important enough for me to listen too..i gain the right of you listenng to me!...I gain your ear...

Your compensation is directly proportional to how many people you serve and how well you serve them

Matt 19:28 Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

- **Sounds kind of Harsh...but this is what Jesus is saying...compensation in the Kingdom is far greater if you expand your value adding beyond family limits...the greater service or value added...the greater the compensation received**
- **You will receive one hundred times as much and eternal life to go along with it!**
- **but those who are simply first in this life...singular taking care of number one ...will be last ...singular ...alone... !**

Luke 16⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

- **Bless others you will be overcompensated! with many friends eternally and possessions (dwellings)..**
- **not just two or even three homes but numerous dwellings!**