

## SALT OF THE EARTH (Matt.5:13)

**Matt. 5:13** *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men."*

According to the Septuagint, the Hebrew word for salt ("melach") in Lev. 2:23 becomes the Greek word "halas" (ἅλας). "Halas", or salt, as used in Matt. 5:13 where Yeshua states that we are **"the salt of the earth."** I used to believe and teach this same thought, but not anymore. As I came to understand the Tenakh concept of the Covenant of Salt, it made me re-examine this passage again. I discovered that the immediate context of Yeshua' "salt of the earth" statement is being persecuted for righteousness. He just got done telling those listening to Him on the mountainside they would be blessed over and over again if they followed Him. One of those blessing was persecution! If one lives for Yeshua as "the salt of the earth", one should expect to be insulted, persecuted and falsely accused. Yeshua is telling His followers the reality of following Him – the good, the bad and the ugly truth of it all.



He continues this line of thinking in Luke 14:34-35. In this passage, Yeshua also uses salt in the context of counting the cost of being His disciple. He tells those listening to Him that they must love Him more than their family and their very life itself. Then after talking about calculating the cost of building a tower and going to war, He states that once salt loses its saltiness, it's not good for anything, even for fertilizer. It has no value whatsoever, so He tells His listeners to listen up. **Living for Him will not be a walk in the park. It will cost them something; so think about it before they begin the journey.**

In **Mark 9:42-50** *"Whoever ensnares one of these little ones who trust me — it would be better for him to have a millstone hung around his neck and be thrown in the sea. 43 If your hand makes you sin, cut it off! Better that you should be maimed but obtain eternal life, rather than keep both hands and go to Gei-Hinnom, to unquenchable fire! 44 \*45 And if your foot makes you sin, cut it off! Better that you should be lame but obtain eternal life, rather than keep both feet and be thrown into Gei-Hinnom! 46 \* 47 And if your eye makes you sin, pluck it out! Better that you should be one-eyed but enter the Kingdom of God, rather than keep both eyes and be thrown into Gei-Hinnom, 48 where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched."* **"Indeed, everyone is going to be salted with fire. 50 Salt is excellent, but if it loses its saltiness, how will you season it? So have salt in yourselves — that is, be at peace with each other."** Yeshua moves past counting the cost to actually living for Him. Salt is now used in the context of living in such a way as to not stumble other believers ("little ones who believe in Me to sin"). He goes on to emphasize His point by saying, "If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off." Notice Yeshua changed the subject of the sentence from just anyone to you. Believers in Yeshua are to live in such a way that their lives will affect others in a positive manner.

After saying this, Yeshua then makes the statement "everyone will be salted with fire." Wow! Will you trust Adonai enough to live His way even during the trials of life? Yeshua finishes His discourse in Mark 9 with this, *"Have salt (ἅλας/melach) in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."*

"Ancient salt was not pure sodium chloride, so the other material in the salt could go bad and cause the salt to be no good." We, as disciples, can make ourselves "go bad" because of the other materials that can

influence us in our daily lives? We must be reminded of “Evil company corrupts good habits” (1Cor. 15:33). The other materials are the ways of the world and the pagan churches. We must not let the real salt (instructions of the torah), be compromised.

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