



Pastor Hanke's Blog

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A Tasteless World Needs Salt; Is the Salt Obedience or Grace?

Bible Reference: Matthew 5:13-20

As a young boy I knew one kind of salt. It was the cute little girl with the umbrella. Certainly a cute little girl with an umbrella had to make the best kind of salt. Once I got into cooking I began to see the many different kinds of salt there really are. Some salt did a better job sticking to fried foods. Some salt was better for making corned beef. Some salt made food have a different taste. Soon I heard that all salt is bad for you because it makes your cholesterol rise.

In seminary they teach us never to use bad analogies for ideas that are good. Sure, I could explain the love of Jesus to be like a can of coke that when you shake it up it explodes all over, but then people are left with a sticky image that nobody wants, rather than the image I want them to be left with when talking about Jesus' love for them. Salt being bad for you was super confusing to me since Jesus was telling us to be the salt of the earth. Jesus certainly wouldn't use a bad analogy for a good thing, would He?

A few years ago my salt knowledge took a turn. I found out about Pink Himalayan salt. This salt is unlike any other; honestly, it can lower your cholesterol! It is a consistent salt that I could use to cook and add taste to food without all the bad effects. There is still a time and place for the other salts, but Pink Himalayan salt is now my go to salt. Since I've made this discovery, I now better understand the analogy of Jesus.

Jesus talks about us being light and salt in this world. Light make sense, but salt takes a little more work to uncover. Our Old Testament reading shows us that there was a lot of confusion about this, and years later the confusion continued as we see in our Gospel reading by the questions people had for Jesus. We'll take time this Sunday to dive into what kind of flavor and light Jesus wants us to add to this world, and why Jesus had to do a lot of explaining to help people understand. See you then!

God's Peace,

Pastor Will