# **SOTM - The Similitudes - Part 2 - Living the Salt Life**

Carl Van Vliet

Sermon on the Mount; Salt; Similitude / Matthew 5:13–20; Matthew 5:13

Similitude in the dictionary has several meanings:

1: a: COUNTERPART
 b: a visible likeness : IMAGE
2: an imaginative comparison

3 a: correspondence in kind or quality
 b: a point of comparison

Jesus begins this next segment with two pieces of “Imagery” of the believer in contrast that we are going to be looking at over the next few weeks.

[Matthew 5:13-16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.13-16) “13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

If I were to give this weeks message a Title I would call today’s message “Living the Salt Life”

“Salt Life” became a popular expression several years ago used to describe those who would rather be at the Beach, Surfing, Diving/Snorkeling, Ocean Fishing or just being around the Ocean. As a brand “Salt Life” sold over 2 million window decals for people to put on their cars and that started it all; A Decal. They quickly became a worldwide brand, now selling clothing and outerwear apparel, Bags, Sunglasses and other merchandise.

According to the company: Salt Life is more than just a logo; it represents a passion for the ocean, the salt air, and most importantly, **a way of life.**

A Way of Life - “You ARE the Salt of the Earth” “Living the true Salt Life” No Ocean, Just Jesus.

**Value to Him**

**Value to the world**

**2) Valuable to the world**

Salt in Jesus day and the days of the Bible had inherent properties that made it valuable. It was the purposes of Salt that made it valuable to the world:

A. Salt was a preservative, preventing decay. This was significantly important to their lives, to preserve food. The first home refrigerator was not invented until 1913 when a man named Fred W. Wolf created the first electric refrigerator. Prior to this there was the “Icebox” which was an insulated box that had a space for iceblocks to be placed to keep food cold. This method of food preservation was not possible in the middle east, it was not cold enough to freeze water to make ice and there were not shipping ways to other areas where they could float ice back. Salt preservation was the only viable means of preserving food and preventing decay. Believers as salt of the earth are a preserving presence in the earth, preventing decay through the presence of righteousness.

B. A second use of salt in its preserving function was not to preserve food but was its use in preserving health. Salt was applied to wounds as a healing balm that would kill infection and bacteria promoting health. Believers are to be agents of healing in a broken world where physical and spiritual healing are so necessary.

C. The Third use of salt is it enhances flavor. it is a valuable seasoning to make something more appealing. Food that is cooked without salt can often be bland, salt makes the food more appealing to the consumer. The salt of the believer draws other to Christ, because the life of a Christian is more appealing than the life without him.

D. A final use of Salt, though not as much a use as an effect of salt is it creates thirst. Salt makes one thirsty. A salty believer causes those around you to thirst for the life of Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### Salt is an element of the Covenant in Christ

In the Old Testament there are 3 pictures of Salt as a element of covenant:

1. Salt used in offerings: [Leviticus 2:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Le2.13) “13 And every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the **salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking** from your grain offering. **With all your offerings you shall offer salt.**”

a. [Romans 12:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro12.1) “1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

2. Salt of the Covenant - The Priestly covenant [Numbers 18:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Nu18.19) “19 “All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer to the Lord, I have given to you and your sons and daughters with you as an ordinance forever; it is a covenant of salt forever before the Lord with you and your descendants with you.”” [1 Peter 2:5](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Pe2.5) “5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, **a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**”

3. Salt of the Covenant - The Davidic Covenant [2 Chron 13:5](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Ch13.5) “5 Should you not know that the Lord God of Israel gave the dominion over Israel to David forever, to him and his sons, by a covenant of salt?”

Jesus instituted a new covenant that was prophesied throughout the Bible

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Je31.31-34) “31 “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when **I will make a new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. **For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more**.””

[Ezekiel 36:26-27](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eze36.26-27) “26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

[Ezekiel 11:19-20](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eze11.19-20) “19 Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.”

[Matthew 26:26-28](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt26.26-28) “26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

[1 Corinthians 11:23-25](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Co11.23-25) “23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.””

**Since, too, salt is a preservative, it would easily become symbolic of an enduring covenant as seen in the Priestly Covenant and the Davidic covenant. You and I, as “Salt of the Earth” are to be in our daily lives symbolic of the enduring covenant of Christ, the New Covenant.**

[Mark 9:49–50](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mk9.49-50) “49 “For everyone will be seasoned with fire, **and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. 50 Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.**””

### Salt is an element of the Incense of worship

[Exodus 30:35–37](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ex30.35-37) “35 You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, **salted, pure, and holy**. 36 And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put some of it before the Testimony in the tabernacle of meeting **where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you**. 37 But as for the incense which you shall make, you shall not make any for yourselves, according to its composition. **It shall be to you holy for the Lord.”**

[Revelation 5:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Re5.8) “8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and **golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**”

Living the Salt Life is living a life of worship and prayer, glorifying God

[Matthew 5:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.13) “13 “You are the salt of the earth; **but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”**

Unsalty salt is a contradiction in terms (“like water losing its wetness,” Betz); if it is not salty, it is not salt.

**R. T. France**

**Salt maintains its properties through time. You can set a pound of salt on the shelf and 100 years from now it will still be salt, and as such will still be salty.**

**Two ways Salt can lose its saltines:**

1. **Dilution**

a. Hyponatremia [hai·pow·nay·**tree**·mee·uh] - Hyponatremia means that **the sodium level in the blood is below normal**. Your body needs sodium for fluid balance, blood pressure control, as well as the nerves and muscles. If this happens a person will experience Nausea or vomiting, Headache, confusion, or fatigue, Low blood pressure, Loss of energy, Muscle weakness, twitching, or cramps, Seizures or coma, Restlessness or bad temper and in extreme cases untreated: death.
Don’t water down (Dilute) you saltyness with worldliness

2. **Mixture**

a. Sinfulness - In Scripture “Leaven” is often symbolic of sin:

i. [1 Corinthians 5:6–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Co5.6-8) “6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

ii. [Matthew 16:6–12](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt16.6-12) “6 Then Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.” 7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “It is because we have taken no bread.” 8 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, “O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread? 9 Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? 10 Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? 11 How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” 12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Bakers in the room would understand if you have ever made bread, the recipe calls for “Yeast” which is a leavening agent that causes the bread to rise. Leaven. without it your bread will be “flat bread” not a loaf.

Bread only really needs 4 ingredients:

1. Flour

2. Warm Water

3. Yeast (Leaven)

4. Salt

Some will add honey or sugar to “feed” the yeast and cause a bigger rise to the loaf.

Did you know that the more salt you add the less effect your yeast will have on the dough? If you put too much salt in your dough recipe it will KILL all the yeast (leaven) leaving you with unleavened bread. [Mark 9:50](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mk9.50) “50 Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? **Have salt in yourselves**, and have peace with one another.””

Living the Salt Life - A life full of Christ, Full of worship and prayer will Sanctify you. “Salted, Pure and Holy” as God said of His Incense in [Exodus 30:35](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ex30.35) “35 You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy.”