

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Dear Members, Friends, and Guests of Desert Hills Lutheran Church,

Two days ago, I looked for a verse that was connected to 5/11/20. Just for fun (and I like fun) I looked for a verse in the Bible in chapter 5 verse 13 for today. I struck gold right out of the chute. Matthew 5:13: *"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot."*

For us, salt can be a seasoning for taste and a mineral for harm. Many foods taste better with a bit of added salt. However, it's said that too much salt in our diet can perhaps lead to stomach cancer, high blood pressure and heart disease. All things in moderation, as they say. In Jesus' day salt was highly prized and was valued for its purity. The Romans said that salt was the purest of all things. Was Jesus telling us to be pure? Salt was also valued as a preservative. It could keep things from going bad, slowing down putrefaction. Was Jesus telling us to avoid corruption and to help this world not go bad or rot? Finally, in the ancient world salt added flavor to food. Try fries or chips or popcorn with no salt. Was Jesus saying that Christians were to be flavor in the world, something that makes things better?

We know that salt does not lose its flavor. What would cause us to be thrown out and trampled underfoot? Perhaps it is when we stop living and breathing our love of God and others. Let's all stay pure, help make our community a better place, and add flavor to the world even in the quarantine.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin

P. S. Happy Birthday to son Alex today up in Astoria, OR in the U.S. Coast Guard.