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# Salt of the Earth IV (A Sacrificial Offering)

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Influencing The Culture

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## Salt of the Earth IV (A Sacrificial Offering)

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- I. Series: New Series Influencing the Culture
  - A. Matthew 5:<sup>13</sup> **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men...**
  - B. Subject: Salt of the Earth (The Savor of God; Balancing, Suppressing Enhancing)
  - C. Subject: Salt of the Earth II (The Godly Preservative; Purpose, Protection, Power)
  - D. Subject: Salt of the Earth III (Purifying Virtues of Godliness; Cleans, Heal, Neutralize)
- II. Homework: Study Leviticus 2:11-13, Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 13:15-16
  - A. Why did God not want an offering with Leaven and Honey in Leviticus 2?
  - B. What is a Living Sacrifice in Romans 12, and a Pleasing Sacrifice in Hebrews 13?
  - C. What is the message of Leaven according to Galatians 5:7-9 and 1 Corinthians 5:1-6?
- III. Text
  - A. Leviticus 2:11–13 (AV)<sup>11</sup> No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of the LORD made by fire. <sup>12</sup> As for the oblation of the firstfruits, ye shall offer them unto the LORD: but they shall not be burnt on the altar for a sweet savour. <sup>13</sup> And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.
  - B. Romans 12:1–2 (AV)<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
  - C. Hebrews 13:15–16 (AV)<sup>15</sup> By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name. <sup>16</sup> But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
- IV. Subject: Influencing The Culture: Salt of the Earth IV (A Sacrificial Offering)
  - A. Matt 5:<sup>13</sup> **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?**
  - B. As Salt, Jesus is teaching us that although we can't change people, we can influence them to want to change themselves. To date we've looked at Salt of the Earth I, II, III:
    - 1. Seasoning: The Savor of God: Balancing, Suppressing Enhancing
    - 2. Preservative: The Godly Preservative: Purpose, Protection, Power
    - 3. Disinfectant: The Purifying Virtues of Godliness)
      - a. Cleansing Virtue of God (The Church with Word; The World with Church)
      - b. Healing Virtue of God (Heals our Wounds; Heals us of our Conditions)
      - c. Neutralizing Virtue of God (Nullifying the Consequences of Sin)
  - C. Now we want to look at the Influence of Salt as a Ceremonial or Sacrificial Offering.
    - 1. Our first lesson text gives us the requirements of the Hebrew Sacrifice
    - 2. Leviticus 2:<sup>11</sup> No meat offering (***Thanksgiving to God***), which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn ***no leaven, nor any honey***, ...
    - 3. When I go to Golden Chorale, one of the things I like to get is their sweet rolls. What makes them good and sweet is yeast (leaven) that causes it to rise, and a sweetener (honey) that gives it a good taste.
    - 4. Now in the next verse God says, he wasn't his offering as a Sweet Savor, but not with Leaven of Honey.
    - 5. Throughout Scripture, leaven has always represented a principle of evil, and here honey represents a natural or worldly sweetener.

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6. As Christians, our offering to God should not be Leaven which corrupts through fermentation, nor Honey which distorts with artificial taste; but with Salt!
7. To Influence the World, our offering must be Salted with a Sacrifice of our Body (A how we live); a Sacrifice of our Mind (how we think), and a Sacrifice of our Praise (how we rejoice).

### D. Subject: Influencing The Culture: Salt of the Earth IV (A Sacrificial Offering)

#### V. A Living Sacrifice (Holy Living)

- A. Leviticus 2:<sup>11</sup> No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn no leaven, ***nor any honey***, in any offering of the LORD made by fire.
- B. Don't offer God a Worldly (Carnal) Offering
  1. When it comes to our offering to God, it shouldn't be sweetened with Honey
  2. Honey represents natural sweetness, and God didn't want his offerings sweeten with anything from the world.
  3. 1 John 2:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
  4. It may taste good to you, but it is not good for you. It ultimately leads to death.
  5. James 1:15 (AV)<sup>15</sup> Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.
- C. God wants an Offering Salted with a Living Sacrifice
  1. Romans 12:<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.
  2. A Living Sacrifice is when we choose to be sweeten not with the things and cares of this world, but with the Salt of Holy Living
  3. Leviticus 11:44 (AV)<sup>44</sup> For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I *am* holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
  4. God doesn't want us seasoned with the Honey of this world, but with the Salt of Holy Living

#### VI. A Transforming Sacrifice (Spiritual Thinking)

- A. Leviticus 2:<sup>11</sup> No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: for ***ye shall burn no leaven***, nor any honey, in any offering of the LORD made by fire.
- B. Don't offer God a Corrupted (Polluted) Offering
  1. Our offering to God must also not be corrupted or contaminated with Leaven
  2. Leaven or yeast causes the dough to become fermented and rise, to be modified and transformed.
  3. Throughout Scripture, leaven has always represented a principle of evil; and was to be excluded from any sacrifice to God. Why?
  4. The first clause of Romans 12:2 says "And be not conformed to this World"!
  5. As a Christian, as Salt of the Earth, to Conform to the world is to allow the leaven of wickedness and evil to ferment, rise, and change the Church into the World.
  6. Galatians 5:7-9 (AV)<sup>7</sup> Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?...<sup>9</sup> A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.
  7. 1 Corinthians 5:1-6 (AV)<sup>1</sup> It is reported commonly *that there is* fornication among you,...<sup>6</sup> Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

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- C. God wants an Offering Salted with a Transforming Sacrifice
1. Romans 12:<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
  2. A Transforming Sacrifice is when we choose to transform our minds with the mind of God, the word of God.
  3. Philippians 2:5–7 (AV)<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
  4. Colossians 3:<sup>1</sup> If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
- VII. A Pleasing Sacrifice (Thankful Praise)
- A. Hebrews 13:15–16 (AV)<sup>15</sup> By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name. <sup>16</sup> But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
- B. As Salt of the Earth, our Offering to God Must be ...
1. A Living Sacrifice Salted with Holy Living
  2. A Transforming Sacrifice Salted with Spiritual Thinking
  3. Finally, A Pleasing Sacrifice Salted with Thankful Praise
- C. Don't offer God an Ungrateful Offering
1. Too many Christians, who are called to be the Salt of the Earth, are ungrateful.
  2. They complain about their troubles (We are troubled on every side...)
  3. They complain about their afflictions (Many are the afflictions of the righteous...)
  4. They complain about their enemies (They that hate me are more than the hairs...)
  5. But when you are busy complaining to God, you are not praising God.
- D. God wants an Offering Salted with a Pleasing Praise
1. Hebrews 13:15–16 (AV)<sup>15</sup> By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name. <sup>16</sup> But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
  2. God is not Pleased with a Distasteful Offering, but a Holy Offering
  3. God is not Pleased with a Polluted Offering, but a Transformed Offering
  4. God is not Pleased with an Ungrateful Offering, but a Thanksgiving Offering
  5. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
  6. Psalm 34:1–3 (AV)<sup>1</sup> I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth. <sup>2</sup> My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear *thereof*, and be glad. <sup>3</sup> O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.
  7. Psalm 118:1–4 (AV)<sup>1</sup> O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is* good: because his mercy *endureth* for ever. <sup>2</sup> Let Israel now say, that his mercy *endureth* for ever. <sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy *endureth* for ever. <sup>4</sup> Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy *endureth* for ever.