

A black leather-bound Bible with the words "HOLY BIBLE" embossed in gold on the cover. To the right of the Bible is a white ceramic bowl filled with small, light-brown mustard seeds. A few seeds have spilled onto the dark surface below the bowl.

HOLY BIBLE

An Essential Ingredient – Matthew 5:13



SALT

An Essential Ingredient

- We know salt as a flavor and taste enhancer, but its uses go far beyond that to essential
 - Salt (*sodium chloride*) plays several essential roles in the human body
 - It is an *electrolyte* (a substance that conducts electricity when dissolved in a liquid) that helps maintain fluid balance throughout the body, including in cells, muscles, and blood
 - It is involved in the transmission of nerve impulses and muscle contractions
 - It is involved in the regulation of blood pressure

An Essential Ingredient

- We know salt as a flavor and taste enhancer, but its uses go far beyond that to essential
 - The human body is designed to crave salt as a survival mechanism
 - It is specifically built into the sense of taste as a flavor detectable by specific taste buds
 - It is involved in the body's metabolism - the chemical processes that occur within a living organism in order to maintain life
- Salt – who knew?

An Essential Ingredient

- As important as it is today its role in history was even greater
 - Salt's foremost use was as a seasoning
 - The second common use of salt is preservation of food
 - Salt has antiseptic properties - preventing infection in wounds
 - Salt was considered something of great value
 - Areas where gold was traded for salt with salt having the greater value

An Essential Ingredient

- As important as it is today its role in history was even greater
 - Some soldiers and workers at times were paid in salt
 - Salt was also used as a sign of favor in the ancient world
 - Because of its great value, it was a generous gift
 - Represented relationships in the ancient world, and most importantly, covenants

An Essential Ingredient

- As important as it is today its role in history was even greater
 - Salt was recognized by the Jews to be a very fitting sign of their covenant theology
 - Most every Jewish sacrifice was to be seasoned with salt
 - Terms like, “We have shared salt” were used
- So now Jesus looked for an earthly example that would explain the essentialness and depth of His people on earth, used salt

Scripture

- **Matthew 5:13 NIV**, 13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.
 - So, what was Jesus telling them and us today?

An Essential Ingredient

- This verse was not spoken in isolation but was a part of a longer teaching session we call *“The Sermon on the Mount”*
 - Jesus taught, “Here is what you should find the Kingdom of God while living here on earth”
 - Humility, Mourning our own sinfulness, Meekness (*Submissiveness*), Thirsting for righteousness, Mercy, Purity, Peacefulness
 - These are the spiritual ingredients we should be blending in our earthly lives

An Essential Ingredient

- Humility, Mourning our own sinfulness, Meekness (*Submissiveness*), Thirsting for righteousness, Mercy, Purity, Peacefulness
 - These will be shown in perfection as Jesus reigns on earth but are to be implemented and practiced in the lives of His children today
 - Jesus has given them so we would know to live today
 - He has given us the power, direction and wisdom of His Holy Spirit
 - He has promised us everlasting life with a glorified body

Now, after all Jesus has done and given for you, go and spread your spiritual salt in this wounded, sinful world

- Jesus' healing miracles were marvelous and caught people's attention
- But what really grabbed them and pulled them toward Him was His compassion
 - His acceptance for the lost and hurting and neglected
 - He touched the untouchable, restored the demon possessed, healed the broken, stood up to the powerful

Now, after all Jesus has done and given for you, go and spread your spiritual salt in this wounded, sinful world

- When they saw Jesus, they saw one who could allow them to come close to God again
 - Jesus knew how and had the power to take them there
 - Jesus made His message of truth look and taste desirable
 - He didn't just heal bodies and minds, but He healed hearts and lives

Now, after all Jesus has done and given for you, go and spread your spiritual salt in this wounded, sinful world

- With His teaching and example can we not live lives that are desirable, even to those who hate us
 - Only God's children can do this
 - To be saltlike we must preserve the truth of Jesus Christ and Scripture
 - Salt when applied correctly interrupts and prevents corruption

Now, after all Jesus has done and given for you, go and spread your spiritual salt in this wounded, sinful world

- The purpose of Satan and this world is to steal, kill and destroy and the only preventive is God's Word under the guidance of His Holy Spirit
 - This must first happen in you, not in perfection, but in continual movement toward
 - We must live in the truth of Jesus Christ so when the world declares us hypocrites it will not stick

Now, after all Jesus has done and given for you, go and spread your spiritual salt in this wounded, sinful world

- We must live in the truth of Jesus Christ so when the world declares us hypocrites it will not stick
 - **1st Peter 2:12 NIV**, Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.
 - **TLB**, Be careful how you behave among your unsaved neighbors; for then, even if they are suspicious of you and talk against you, they will end up praising God for your good works when Christ returns.

Now, after all Jesus has done and given for you, go and spread your spiritual salt in this wounded, sinful world

- We are also God's face before this lost and confused and broken world, so how we dispense His truth matters
 - **Ephesians 4:15 NIV**, “speak the truth in love”
 - **John 17:14 NIV**, “I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.”

Now, after all Jesus has done and given for you, go and spread your spiritual salt in this wounded, sinful world

- Antiseptic salt works by creating an inhospitable environment for germs
 - Wounds were cleansed with a salt solution
 - Newborn babies were washed with a salt rub
 - The only answer for our wounded world is the salt of Jesus Christ and the Word of God

Now, after all Jesus has done and given for you, go and spread your spiritual salt in this wounded, sinful world

- Christian, you will be wounded while living in this hostile world
 - You will be tempted to respond as the lost world recommends
 - The only answer is a salt rub of God's Promises
 - We are to help wounded Christians apply the salt rub of God's Promises
 - See the lost as wounded because that is what they are

Now, after all Jesus has done and given for you, go and spread your spiritual salt in this wounded, sinful world

- Recognize your salvation and the truth that God has brought to it as the most valuable asset in your life
 - It's not your finances but Jesus, health but Jesus, scars but Jesus
 - Not your name, power, influence but Jesus

Now, after all Jesus has done and given for you, go and spread your spiritual salt in this wounded, sinful world

- See your salvation and the truth that God has brought to it as the most valuable asset in your life
 - **Ephesians 1:3 NIV**, Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Now, after all Jesus has done and given for you, go and spread your spiritual salt in this wounded, sinful world

- See your salvation and the truth that God has brought to it as the most valuable asset in your life
 - “Blessed beyond measure” indicates something that is immeasurable—too large, extensive or extreme to calculate
 - Think about counting grains of sand or stars in the night sky, as God asked Abram to do
 - There were too many to count, so are God’s blessing to you

Now, after all Jesus has done and given for you, go and spread your spiritual salt in this wounded, sinful world

- “More Precious Than Silver”

Lord, You are more precious than silver

Lord, You are more costly than gold

Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds

And nothing I desire compares with You

Your spiritual salt must be protected against corruption

- What is the purpose of Satan and the world?
 - To steal, kill, and destroy
 - We are the spiritual salt God uses to hinder this corruption
- **Matthew 5:13 NIV**, 13b “But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.
- There is really only one way our salt can lose its saltiness, effectiveness
 - If it becomes contaminated
 - How does salt become contaminated?

Your spiritual salt must be protected against corruption

- You can't use contaminated salt, it's not acceptable and could be harmful
- The only use is to throw it out where it will be trampled
 - When we become full of bitterness and unforgiveness your salt is contaminated and not desired by anyone
 - When your lives are not lived by what you profess to believe in your salt is contaminated and not desired by anyone
 - When you allow false teachings to become sold as truth your salt is contaminated and not desired by anyone

Your spiritual salt must be protected against corruption

- You can't use contaminated salt, it's not acceptable and could be harmful
 - When you allow sin to be accepted as truth your salt is contaminated and not desired by anyone
 - The Nation of Israel became experts in contaminating their salt
 - They desired to be like the nations around them
 - **1st Samuel 8:5 TLB**, "Give us a king like all the other nations have," they pleaded.

Your spiritual salt must be protected against corruption

- What is the only answer to contaminated spiritual salt?
 - **Acts 3:19 NIV**, “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord”

An Essential Ingredient

- Moses lost his spiritual saltiness but not his calling
 - It wasn't the burning bush that restored Moses' spiritual saltiness
 - It wasn't the rod that turned into a snake
 - It was simply saying, "Yes" to God, walking in obedience, and watching how He worked over time

An Essential Ingredient

- Has your spiritual saltiness got wet leaving you joyless and lacking His peace
 - Has your spiritual saltiness been burnt leaving it stale and ineffective
 - Are your wounds limiting your spiritual saltiness
 - Be a Moses, return, begin walking in obedience and over time watch what the Lord will do

A black leather-bound Holy Bible with gold lettering and a white bowl of mustard seeds. The Bible is on the left, and the bowl of seeds is on the right. The background is a dark, textured surface.

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