

12. 10. 70  
7. 2. 72  
14. 10. 74  
26. 2. 87

On Monday at this time I talked about the Beatitudes. Well,

Lower yr Eyes (So Tell us)

TAPE (Deiss RTH)

Glorify to the Fr. & to the Son & to the H. Sp.: as it was in the beginning so be it now & for ever. Amen.

Immediately after the Beatitudes, in St Matt's gospel, we read: "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your father who is in heaven."

Salt: an ordinary everyday commodity we seldom think about - we need it, in tiny quantities anyway, to survive; and in our climate here we're well used to finding it so cheap and unusable that we just throw it out and get some fresh stuff. This simple commodity is necessary, and performs a very useful function as a seasoning and preservative: it is also an irritant, and a little too much of it in the soup or on yr. plate can be decidedly unpleasant.... to say nothing of being condemned to work in a salt mine, or rubbing salt on a fresh wound. The humble value of salt is noticeable always for active qualities; it's missed if it's absent. It was this simple commodity that <sup>Jesus</sup> Christ said His disciples shd. be like: the salt of the earth - not just in the passive sense, of being the best, the most useful, the ideal, but also in the active sense of having an effect, being felt in their presence in the world. Christ's disciples are to spread their teaching and example around the <sup>earth</sup> world, influencing, seasoning, encouraging - and also, no doubt, irritating, as He Himself was an irritation to the establishment of his time & place.

Do you remember <sup>some</sup> <sup>many</sup> years ago when water from Plover Cove was first added

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people complained that it ruined their tea - I seem to remember even tea-house complaints they were losing a lot of business.

The  
to our water supply & Govt. kept an assuring us of the requisite proportion of salt in the water (6 parts in a million, or something) - yet it was noticeable. What about the Christian presence here in HK? In some ways we are very noticeable, and for various reasons irritate certain important people in industry, business & government; but how much do we (& I mean individuals like you & me) make what you might call a "tasty" impact on the people among whom we live & work? How much does Christ's love & care for them show through in our concern, interest & care for the community here, especially where there is hardship, economic oppression, injustice, need & suffering? There are Christians concerned & involved with the many social problems we have here - but are enough of us <sup>perhaps</sup> being the salt of the earth in this field? Salt can lose its savour, & then it's no use at all - you just throw it out. This aspect of Christ's saying is also stressed in the other gospel records of it - our Lord was giving a warning as well, about the constant possibility of defection from the gospel, from this message, the wisdom & salvation. What use is a Christian who has lost his flavour, who's not in touch with Christ, who doesn't reflect Christ in some way in his life, manner, thought, action, speech, work? There are quite a number of people in our city who wd. be happy to see Christians neutralized in this way, their influence & activity confined to the inside of churches on a Sunday morning. If we are to be the salt of the earth, we must keep the savour of Xp:

74 Bible women (So Tell us)  
Deiss (RTH: EAT-0-31)  
and that needs contact and familiarity with Him, it needs prayer. Think about His salt business now while we listen to a modern French setting of the 2nd pt. of Ps 118 & Ps of the Law. MUSIC - PRAYERS → MP 74 p24  
new song - which might also be used with the 1st pt. of Ps 118  
Ps 1, & Ps 4  
do not let the Holy Spirit be grieved  
I have been saying "Behold"