



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Mt. 5:13

“The Salt of the Earth”

Mt. 5:13 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.



Review

Several weeks ago, we began the exegesis of this great sermon preached by the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BLESSINGS, 5:1-16

A. The Setting, 5:1-2

B. The Sayings, 5:3-12

1. What We Are, 5:3-5

a. Poor in Spirit, 5:3

b. Pressed in Soul, 5:4

c. Patient in Strife, 5:5



2. Where We Aim, 5:6

3. Ways We Act, 5:7-9

a. When Facing Cruelty, 5:7

b. When Facing Corruption, 5:8

c. When Facing Conflict, 5:9

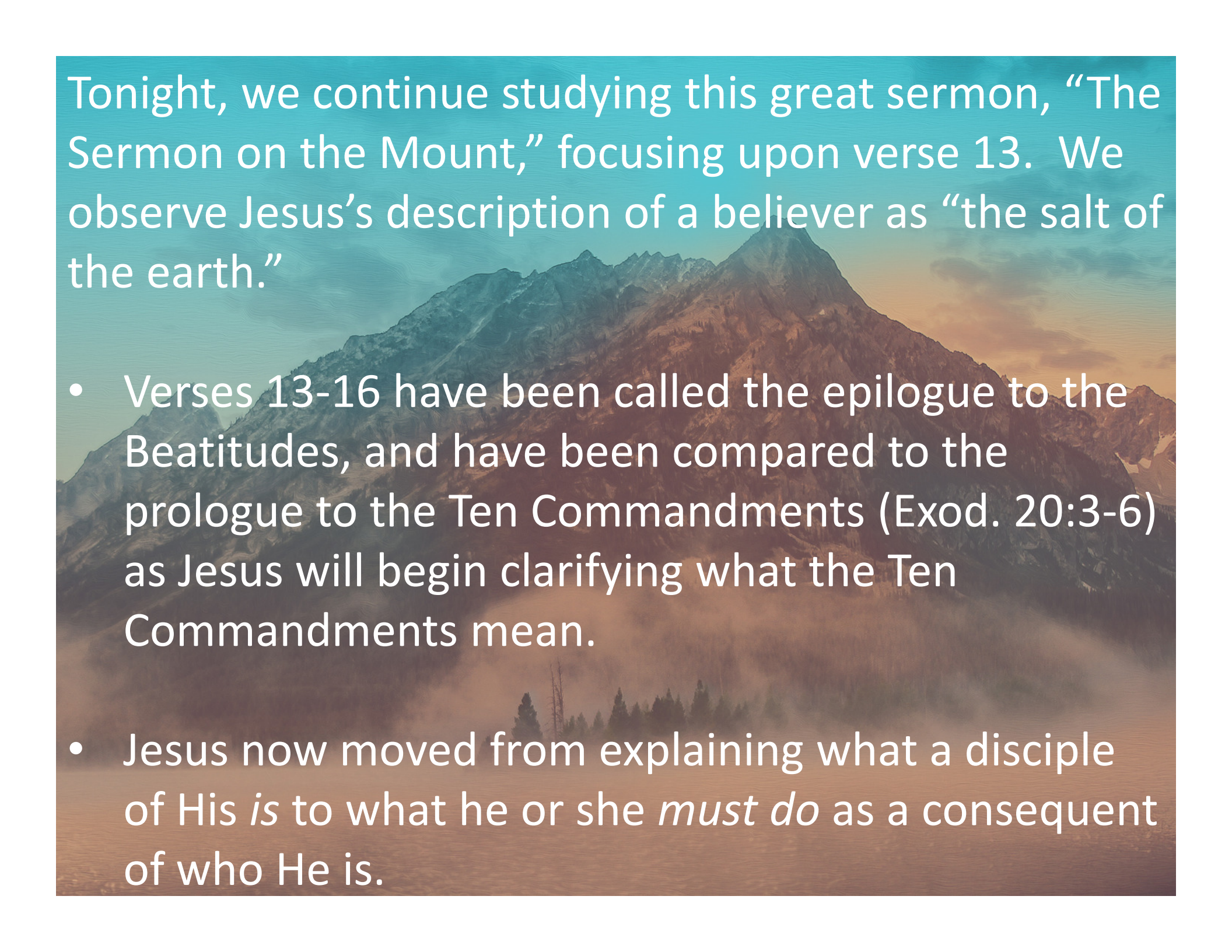
4. What We Accept, 5:10-12

a. The Question of Overwhelming
Persecution, 5:10-11

b. The Question of Overcoming
Persecution, 5:12

(1) Rejoicing Through It, 5:12a “Rejoice,
and be exceedingly glad...”

(2) Rewarded For It, 5:12b “...for great *is*
your reward in heaven...”



Tonight, we continue studying this great sermon, “The Sermon on the Mount,” focusing upon verse 13. We observe Jesus’s description of a believer as “the salt of the earth.”

- Verses 13-16 have been called the epilogue to the Beatitudes, and have been compared to the prologue to the Ten Commandments (Exod. 20:3-6) as Jesus will begin clarifying what the Ten Commandments mean.
- Jesus now moved from explaining what a disciple of His *is* to what he or she *must do* as a consequent of who He is.

C. The Sequel, 5:13-16

1. Resisting Decay, 5:13

Mt. 5:13 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.

Mt. 5:13 – “...salt of the earth...”

Mt. 5:14 – “light of the world...”

- These two verses are not interchangeable as “salt of the world” and “light of the earth.”
- Salt relates to our character, and light relates to our conduct.

Mt. 5:13 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.

- “Ye **are** the salt of the earth...” = **Present Influence**

- During the time of Christ, salt was considered a valuable commodity:

salary (n.)

late 13c., "compensation, payment," whether periodical, for regular service or for a specific service; from Anglo-French *salarie*, Old French *salaire* "wages, pay, reward," from Latin *salarium* "an allowance, a stipend, a pension," **said to be originally "salt-money, soldier's allowance for the purchase of salt"** [Lewis & Short] noun use of neuter of adjective *salaricus* "of or pertaining to salt; yearly revenue from the sale of salt;"

<https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=salary>

- Salt is distinctive from the earth – “Ye are the **of** the earth...”
- Identified as “salt” is a proclamation of believers having a “difference”
- Believers are to be “of the world,” while yet not being “worldly.”

1 Cor. 15:47 **The first man *is of the earth, earthy*:** the second man *is* the Lord from heaven.

48 ***As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.***

49 And ***as we have borne the image of the earthy,*** we shall also ***bear the image of the heavenly.***

- Being “the salt of the earth” should produce a humbling reality of mankind and his origin.

Gen. 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: **for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**

Job 34:15 All flesh shall perish together, and **man shall turn again unto dust.**

Psa. 103:14 For he knoweth our frame; **he remembereth that we are dust.**



Eccl. 3:20 All go unto one place; **all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.**

Eccl. 12:7 Then shall **the dust return to the earth** as it was: and **the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.**

- The believer's "salty" role is to act as a preservative – **resisting decay.**

1 Jn. 5:19 *And* we know that we are of God, and **the whole world lieth in wickedness.**

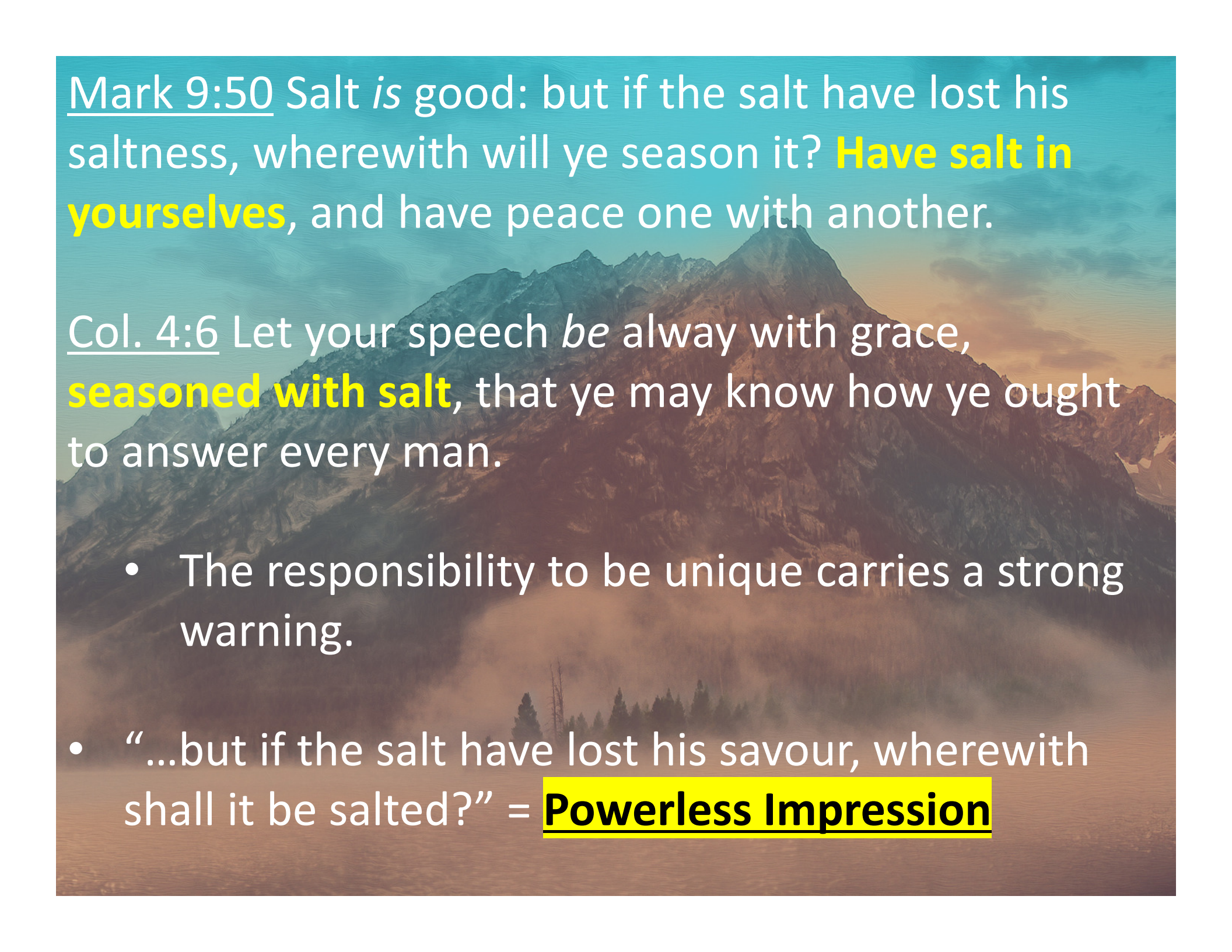
- Salt is an active ingredient to inhibit putrefaction.
- Salt is an active ingredient to enhance flavor, prohibit food from being insipid.

Job 6:6 **Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt?** or is there *any* taste in the white of an egg?

- Life without Christ is insipid – the epitome of vanity.

Jn. 10:10b “...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.”

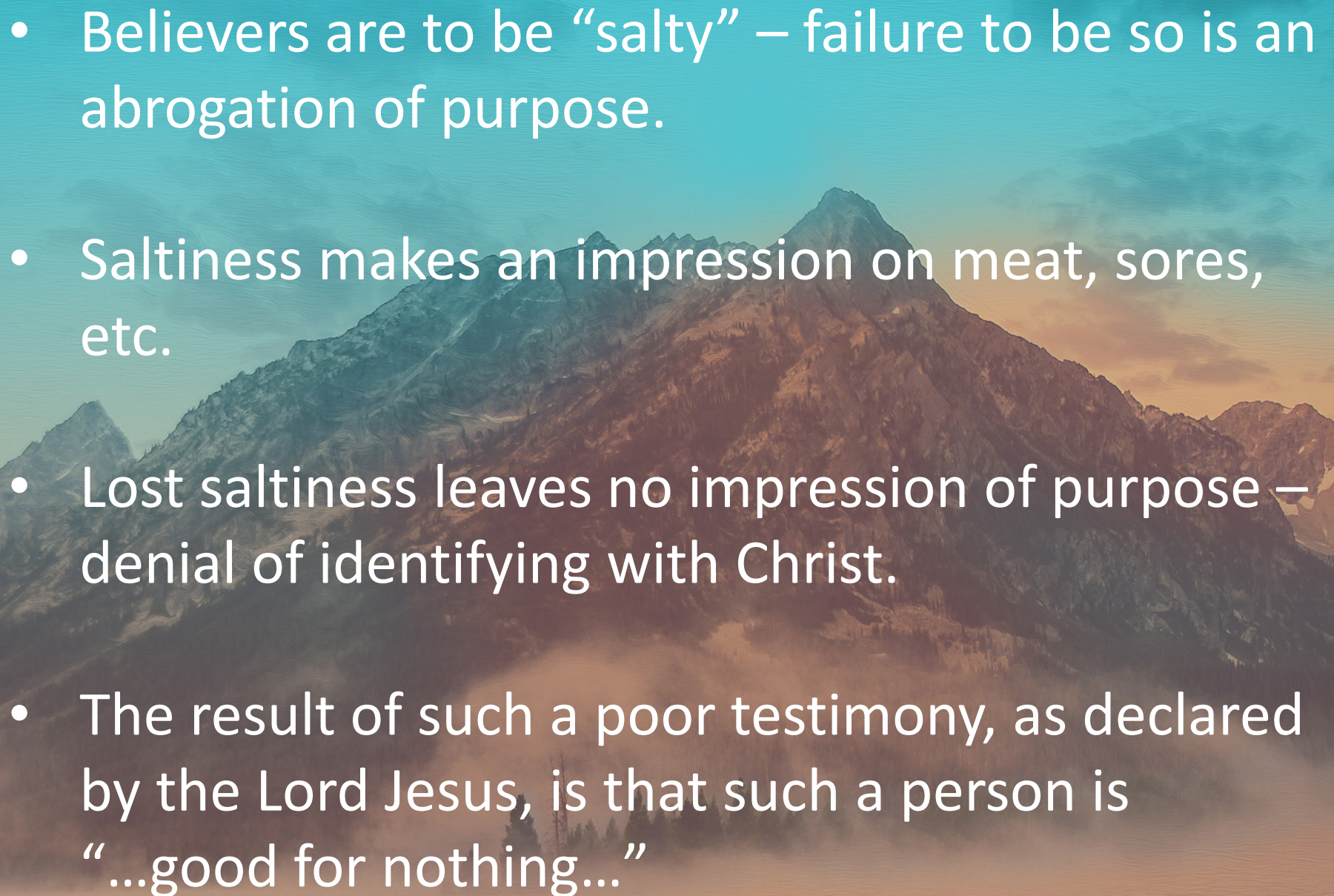
- Jesus is saying, in essence, to His disciples, “**Your difference to the world is your unique dynamic in witnessing to them as my ambassadors.**”



Mark 9:50 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? **Have salt in yourselves**, and have peace one with another.

Col. 4:6 Let your speech *be* always with grace, **seasoned with salt**, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

- The responsibility to be unique carries a strong warning.
- “...but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?” = **Powerless Impression**

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- Believers are to be “salty” – failure to be so is an abrogation of purpose.
 - Saltiness makes an impression on meat, sores, etc.
 - Lost saltiness leaves no impression of purpose – denial of identifying with Christ.
 - The result of such a poor testimony, as declared by the Lord Jesus, is that such a person is “...good for nothing...”

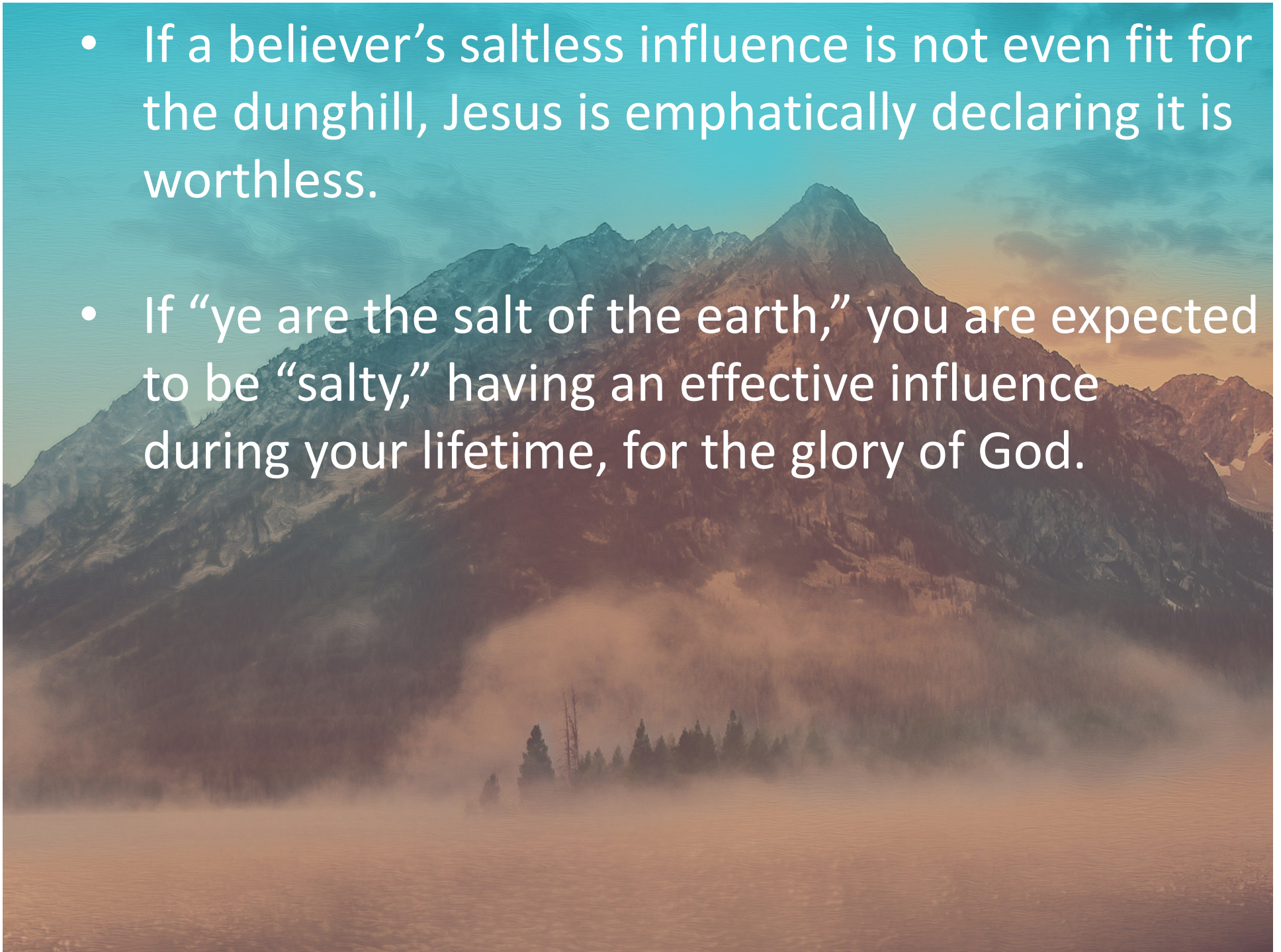
- “...it is thenceforth **good for nothing**, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”
= **Pitiful Ineffectiveness**

Luke 14:34 Salt *is* good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?

35 **It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill**; *but* men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

- Such a “saltless” believer is so good for nothing, the testimony is “...neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill...”

- If a believer's saltless influence is not even fit for the dunghill, Jesus is emphatically declaring it is worthless.
- If "ye are the salt of the earth," you are expected to be "salty," having an effective influence during your lifetime, for the glory of God.



Conclusion

Heb. 6:9 But, **beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation,** though we thus speak.

