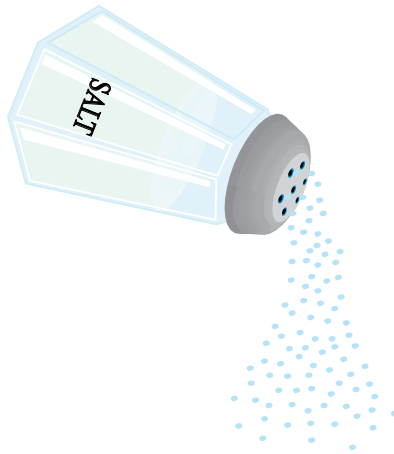


# Salt & Light

## September 2009



**Week 3 - Two Salty Examples - Peter & Paul**  
**Acts of the Apostles**

## **WEEK 3 - TWO SALTY ONES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The book of Acts or The Acts of the Apostles, as it is also known, is an exciting account of the spread of Christianity and mainly focuses upon two men, Peter and Paul. Why do we call them salty ones? The answer is found in the beginning of Acts: “They began to do and teach what Jesus had done.”

It is interesting to note that they both began their ministries as most unlikely candidates to be used by God. Peter had denied that he knew Jesus during the crucifixion and Paul savagely persecuted the new fledgling church, but God graciously righted those wrongs and Peter, the coward, became a powerful orator and after his first sermon 3,000 people became converts. Paul, the oppressor, became the champion evangelist, constantly travelling to tell others of Jesus’ love. We can learn from their bold approach in becoming “the salt of the earth”.

### **ICE BREAKER:**

What is the boldest venture you have embarked upon?

e.g., riding a hot air balloon/starting a new career/changing countries/dyeing your hair red?

## QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever heard a powerful speaker who changed your way of thinking? What impressed you about the speaker, his manner/sincerity/good looks?

2. As this little band of Christians began to expand, the Jewish authorities became threatened and after Peter healed a crippled beggar, Peter and John were dragged before the Sanhedrin.

Read Peter's eloquent reply in his defense Acts 4:10-20

a) What impressed those who were listening?

b) What made them note "these men had been with Jesus"?

## QUESTIONS Cont'd

c) When do we make that assumption? Can you give an example of watching another and being positive that they had been motivated by love of Christ?

d) Have you experienced a change of attitude after spending time in prayer?

## QUESTIONS Cont'd

3. In verse 17 we read:

Salt was also used as a preservative, how can we preserve the good news by being “the salt of the earth”? Give some practical examples. How can being salty stop the rot of an evil society?

4. In verse 20 we read:

“For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

What have we seen and heard in our Christian walk that prompts us to speak?

The great change that Jesus Christ brought about in Peter and Paul’s lives is evident in the letters they wrote (especially Paul) to others encouraging, blessing and directing new disciples of the risen Saviour. Paul who was once zealous in persecuting Christians now focuses his whole life on knowing Jesus personally.

## QUESTIONS Cont'd

5. In his letter to the Philippians he writes:

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ” (Philippians 3:7–9)

Paul had lived the good life before he met Jesus. He was a Pharisee, he had always obeyed the Jewish law and possessed the coveted Roman citizenship.

a) What is he now saying about all the good things he had?

b) As we look around in our culture what do we see people valuing? What are most people striving for?

c) How difficult is it today with all the pressure of modern day living to put Christ first? Can you think of any small steps we could all take?

d) Max Lucado has a wonderful book entitled, "It's Not About Me". What do you think of this title? How could embracing that thought help us to fulfill Jesus' words?