

Salty Saints

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide#2 This Wed 7pm; Hope for Hurting Hearts narrated by Dr. James Dobson, tells the stories of how Greg/Cathe Laurie, Nick Vujicic, Jeremy Camp & their families dealt with times of trial.
1. Everyone has to deal with **crises** in life. And sometimes, the reality of life can seem unbearable. But we can rest in the knowledge that God loves us, He weeps in our times of pain, and He can be glorified through suffering. Slide#3 Play video

II. Slide#4 **Intro:**

- A. Despite Christendom's frequent *failures* we **can** have a healing, preserving influence on our city, on our society & on our world.
- B. Whatever or whoever we are, *whether in the military, in business, in education, on a campus* - Christ calls us to have a **preserving** influence.
1. We as Christians can bring **flavor to life** & make the world **salty** for the Savior.
 2. Our presence in our world ought to *quicken the conscience, elevate conversation, restrain ethical corruption, promote honesty, & raise the moral atmosphere of society.*
 3. This portion of Scripture, Jesus lays down how we are to **Cultivate our Saltiness**.
 - a) See vs.50...then we'll back up & see how we can **Cultivate this Saltiness**.
 - b) In Mt.5:13 it **doesn't** say we **should be** the salt of the earth...it says we **are** - "*You are the salt of the earth.*"
 - (1) We can't **change** what we are, but we can **waste** what we are. [don't lose your flavor]
- C. **Title: Salty Saints**. [NaCl Saints - Periodic Tables formula, Sodium Chloride Saints]
- D. Slide#5 **Outline:** Don't Think My Mission is w/o Suffering; Loose the Cape; Your Church isn't the best...Mine is; Free Cement Shoes for Tripping Kids; Don't Coddle Sin...Crucify it; Be a Sensational Salty Saint.

III. Slide#6 **DON'T THINK MY MISSION IS W/O SUFFERING (30-32)**

- A. This is **2nd** time to share this prophecy w/them.
- B. Didn't understand it. Didn't ask. I wonder if they should have? Would He have expounded on it?
- C. Jesus said, *Don't think my Mission is w/o suffering.*

IV. Slide#7 **LOOSE THE CAPE (33-37)**

- A. Did Peter, James & John, receiving the *prestigious pick* to go up on the mountain w/Jesus, stir up this question & debate among the 12? - Did this fuel the fire of competition?
1. Slide#8 I picture from God's vantage point this discussion being like...all the crystals inside a salt shaker discussing **who's saltier?**

2. Come on guys stand together, no matter who is greatest.
 - a) It's serving your **superiors** & your **inferiors**.
 - b) This is the way to true *First-ness*.
3. Don't aim for **human greatness**; aim to be **more like Jesus Christ**.

B. **Slide#9** I'm going to show a 1 minute clip from Pixar animation *The Incredibles*.

1. Reminded of this excerpt from **Bob Goff's** book, *Love Does* (ch.24).
2. **Backstory: Mr. Incredible** is the super hero dad in the movie, and he's tired of this job. He sells insurance, but he knows that's not the real him. So he starts doodling on his sketchpad, drawing different superhero suits because he wants to go back to being who he knows he really was meant to be. Most of the outfits he draws have cape's because that's how most superheroes dress, and he wants to be the same as them. He has a friend, **Edna**, who makes superhero uniforms, and every time he shows her a design, she keeps telling him to **lose the Cape**.
3. **Slide#10 Show clip**.
4. Isn't this whole **humility** thing, God telling us to "*loose the cape?*"
 - a) **Slide#11a** Can we just be *Secretly Incredible?*
5. **Slide#11b Humility** means, "knowing yourself, accepting yourself, being yourself, your best self, & giving of yourself for others."

C. **Slide#12** (37) **Children** were not given much **recognition** in NT time.

1. He probably grabs one of Peters kids? (he's in a house in Capernaum)
2. The **test of greatness** is being ready to **serve** other people **even if** they are as '*unimportant*' as a little child.
 - a) Jesus turns every day values on their head.
3. We are to receive **all of Gods people** as we do **children**, w/no thoughts of their accomplishments, their influence, their fame, or their gifts, **but simply** because they are **His children**.

D. Jesus said, *Loose the Cape*.

V. **Slide#13 YOUR CHURCH ISN'T THE BEST...MINE IS (38-41)**

- A. How many churches/groups have thought this same thought...*We* have the special relationship with You Jesus. NLT "*we told him to stop because he wasn't in our group.*"
 1. They gave them a *Cease & Desist order* - but Paul said, **Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls.** Rom.14:4
- B. What's really funny is this **no name guy** was **successful** in **his** exorcism & the 9 disciples weren't.
- C. **Slide#14a** Such **exclusivism** & **narrowness** *sickens* God.

1. The criterion for ministry is not **style** or **tradition** or **denomination**, but **Jesus' name** being **lifted up & glorified**.
- D. **Slide#14b** One put it this way, "We're all branch offices of the same business; when one branch prospers, we all prosper."
- E. Jesus said, *your church isn't the best...Mine is.*

VI. **Slide#15 FREE CEMENT SHOES FOR TRIPPING KIDS (42)**

- A. Don't cause a child of God to trip up.
- B. **Slide#16 Millstone** – The upper millstone that took a donkey to rotate.
 1. This was historically the fate of some.
- C. These **little ones** refers to all Gods children who follow Christ & seek to serve Him.¹
- D. **Make sure in your life there is nothing** to make young believers to stumble.
 1. **But what about my rights to drink, smoke, & chew, & run w/girls who do?**
 - a) **Slide#17** All liberties stop at the door of stumbling.
- E. Christian know this...*someone is watching you.* **Walk your talk.**
- F. Jesus said, *free cement shoes for tripping young believers.*

VII. **Slide#18 DON'T CODDLE SIN...CRUCIFY IT (43-48)**

- A. **The last section**, don't stumble **others**...**Now**, don't stumble **yourself**.
- B. Don't **pamper** sin in your life.
 1. Here Jesus puts **personal holiness** in the most **dramatic** & **drastic** terms...in the whole bible.
 2. Deal drastically with sin **like a surgeon** going after the cancerous tumor; **like a shark** after its wounded victim.
 3. **Slide#19** Billy Sunday, "One reason sin flourishes is that it is treated like a **cream puff** instead of a **rattlesnake**."
- C. Of course the Lord is **not** commanding literal **physical** surgery. [spiritual surgery]
 1. He had already made it clear sin comes from the **heart**. Mrk 7:20-23
 2. **Slide#20,21** Unfortunately, some in the early church took this literally. **Origen** of Alexandria **castrated himself** in an attempt to overcome sensual desires.
 - a) The Council of Nicea finally outlawed this practice.
 - b) **Why**, because you can hack off your *hands*, chop off your *feet*, & pop out your *eye balls*...even go get *neutered*...& **still** be the most vial of sinners.
 3. **Slide#22** Jesus didn't want **physical** mutilation but **spiritual** mortification.

¹ Warren Wiersbe; BeDiligent; pg.92.

4. **Hand, foot, & eye** maybe representing the totality of life (i.e. **Hand/what we do; Foot/where we go; Eye/what we see**) Kent Hughes
- D. What harmful practice does He want you to cut off or out of in your life?
1. Half-way measures just won't do. **And**, no one can do it for you.
- E. **Hell** – *Gehenna*. [ge=valley - henna=hinnom]
1. An **actual valley** just outside of Jerusalem. Where king Ahaz worshipped Molech, the fire god, & even sacrificed his children in the fire.
- F. **Slide#23** - **Jonathan Edwards** said it so well, “There is the dreadful pit of the glowing flames of the wrath of God; there is **hell's** wide gaping mouth open; and **you** have nothing to stand upon, nor anything to take hold of, there is nothing between **you** and **hell** but the air; it is only the **power and mere pleasure of God** that holds you up.”
1. Jesus believed in a place called **Gehenna**. It was a place of eternal torment & righteous punishment. **Wait**, doesn't that make God mean?
 - a) **No**, A loving mother isn't mean giving her child *honest warnings*, “don't go too near the fire or you might get burned”, “Don't play in the road or you might get run over.”
 - (1) These are not idle threats but **realistic warnings**. Part of God's love for us is the **honest warnings** He gives.
- G. Jesus said, *Don't coddle sin...crucify it.*

VIII.Slide#24 **BE A SENSATIONAL SALTY SAINT (49,50)**

- A. (49) Embrace the salt of a **sacrificial** life & the fire of **persecution** which comes with it.
- B. **Slide#25** (50) *Don't lose your salty character.*
1. Once you've lost that precious Christian character, **how will you restore it?**
- C. **Slide#26 Salt** - Many analogies. Most **sacrifices** were seasoned w/salt. Salt was used for **cleansing & preserving** meat thus *hindering corruption*. Salt **seasons** whatever it touches. Salt **stings** when it touches a wound. Salt makes people **thirsty**.
1. Christian, be a **preserving influence** in a **decaying world**.
- D. **Don't Think being on Mission** is w/o Suffering. Loose your Cape. Your Church isn't the best...Jesus' Church Is. Still free Cement Shoes for Tripping young believers. **Don't Coddle Sin** in your life...Crucify it. Be a Sensational Salty Saint.
- E. **End:** A famous king, **depressed** by circumstances in his realm and feeling rejected by many of his subjects, called for his **3 daughters** to comfort and reassure him. After they had talked awhile, he asked how much they loved him. **2** of them answered that they cared for him more than all the gold and silver in the world; but **Mary**, the **youngest**, said she loved him like salt. **Slide#27** The king wasn't pleased with her answer, for he considered **salt** to be of very little value. **The cook**, who overheard the conversation, knew that the child's reply had more significance than the father imagined. She dared not speak to the monarch about the matter, but devised a subtle way to emphasize the true meaning of the young girl's words. **The next**

morning at breakfast she withheld the salt from everything she served, and the meal was so insipid that the king didn't enjoy it at all. Then he realized the full force of his daughter's remark. She loved him so much that **nothing** was good without him! With a smile he said, "*I understand now, Mary. Your love is the greatest of all!*"

F. Jesus said, *be a Sensational Salty Saint.*

G. **Communion:**

H. **Bread:**

1. Forgive us for *wearing, enjoying, & showing off* our **cap**es.
2. Forgive us for thinking we at CM are the **right** or **only** church. Help us to be **tolerant** to all our brothers & sisters.
3. Forgive us for **stumbling** others w/our *walk*, w/our *mouths*, esp w/our *liberties*.
4. Forgive us for **pampering** our peccadillo's, **coddling** our sin, and **indulging** our iniquities.

I. **Cup:**

1. Thank You for Your **mission** of *suffering*.
2. Thank You for Your **church** & allowing **us** to be a part of it.
3. Thank You for *ghfgh*
4. Thank You for helping us to be **Salt** (that *hidden work*, that is *secret & slow*) & **Light** (that is *seen* & works *openly & quickly*).