

Children's Sermon for Feb 9 (based on Mt. 5:13-20)

Items needed: 4 bowls (glass, if possible) salt; dirt; popped popcorn, funnel, empty salt shaker, large spoon.

Put popcorn in one bowl, dirt in one, salt in one, leaving one bowl empty. Take cap off salt shaker. After kids come up, bring out bowl of popcorn and asks who likes popcorn. Tell them you like salt on your popcorn--bring out bowl of salt. But you're going to add a "secret ingredient" to the salt, before you put it on the popcorn. And the "secret ingredient," you are going to add to the salt is----dirt! (bring out bowl of dirt.) Pour some salt, and some dirt, into the empty mixing bowl, stir with spoon. Tell kids you are going to put your salt, with the dirt, into a salt shaker (do so, using the funnel, then put lid on shaker.) Use shaker to put salt/dirt mix onto popcorn, then ask, who would like to share this with me? Why not--because no one wants to eat popcorn with dirt in it! When Jesus taught this lesson, people didn't go to the store for salt. They would dig a hole, and fill it with water from the ocean. Then, when the ocean water had dried up, the salt that was in the ocean water, would be left behind. But the dirt, underneath the salt that was left behind, could get mixed into the salt. That's what Jesus is talking about in our Bible reading, when He talks about salt that has lost its saltiness--salt that has so much dirt in it, it tastes more like dirt than like salt. This Jesus' way of saying that He doesn't want us to be like everybody else. Jesus wants us to be more patient, more kind, and more caring than others, so we can be "salty salt"--Christians who are trying to live more like Jesus would have us live.

By Rev. Dave Quinn