

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



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THE SALT SHAKER AND THE DRILL

The other day, looking at the salt shaker, I suddenly recalled a conversation as a small boy with my mother. She had discovered me on the kitchen floor, along with the large plastic salt shaker and Dad's rather sizeable drill. From memory, the conversation went something like, "Kevin! What on earth are you doing with Dad's drill and the salt shaker?" Nothing much phased my mother, but this action wound her up for some reason. Full of innocence, I informed her, "Well, Mum, the holes in the shaker are too small. Not enough salt comes out, so I'm going to make them bigger. Can you hold the shaker while I drill?" Needless to say, the shaker didn't get drilled, and with Mum issuing the time-honoured threat of "You wait till your father comes home!" I was unceremoniously sent outside.

Jesus in **Matthew 5:13** said to his followers, "You are the salt of the earth".

Salt, when used in the correct amounts and at the right time and circumstances, adds flavour and preserves.

Is Jesus telling his followers, "Your task is to bring the unique flavour of God's forgiving love to those whose lives you touch while preserving that which is right and good according to my Father's wishes?"

But do we followers of Jesus, sometimes, filled with enthusiasm and forgetting to stop and ask God what his recipe is for the situation, try to "drill holes in the salt shaker" while thinking "The more I can cover the people I meet with God's love the better off they will be". Such thoughts and actions may overpower and cause stress to a seeking, tender faith. Instead, surely it is wiser to talk to God about how he has planned to use us to bring the flavour of his love to someone and then ask God how he wants us to help someone preserve and grow a relationship with their loving God. **(Matthew 6:33)**

The words of Jesus are worth noting. "Our Father in heaven, may your name be holy, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." **(Matthew 6:9-10)** When teaching his followers how to pray, Jesus prays that what God wants is what will be done. When we do this, we ask that any obstacles (including our best intentions) will not get in the way. It also tells God, "I want to listen and learn from you."

God bless,

Kevin.