

You Ain't Right...Flavor-full!

Matthew 5:13
April 15, 2018

Today we are beginning a new message series titled: "You ain't right!"

This phrase, "you ain't right," has been said to my face many a time. If the words were not actually spoken the facial features of the person proclaimed it loud and clear, **"Ken! You ain't right!"**

Often I was rightly accused of this after I had said or done something that was not a culture character kind of norm. Often this phrase was spoken to me after some words or actions brought joy and laughter. For example let me share the most recent one.

This "you ain't right" came to me at a recent wedding I performed. The young 6 or 7 year old ring bearer looked like he really didn't want to be at the rehearsal. I told him that if he did his job really well on the day of the wedding that he would get a king size Snickers bar. His face lit up. I then instructed him that if I dropped one of the rings on his side of the altar he was to pick it up. But if I dropped a ring on my side of the altar rail I would get it. I also told him that if I couldn't untie the knot holding the rings to the pillow that I would simply "rip it!"

So guess what happened the next day during the solemn wedding ceremony? No, I didn't rip the pillow ribbon. I was able to untie the string holding the rings with no problem. However, I did drop the bride's ring on the ring bearer's side of the altar rail. He did his job and found it and handed it to me. Later, after the wedding was over, I handed him a king-size Snickers bar. He was happily surprised!

Now for the "you ain't right" moment. I later told the maid of honor that I had actually dropped the ring on purpose! Her smiling face confirmed the truth, "you ain't right!"

Anybody here ever had someone accuse you of not being right? Another way would be to say you are weird or just not normal! I want us to begin to see that this is what Jesus calls us to be, "you ain't right...weird or just not normal!"

Our theme verse for this series comes from the words of The Apostle Paul to the Christians in Rome. In the midst of the powerful Roman government he called the people to not be right...to be weird or not cultural normal. Hear his words:

"Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to it's level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." Romans 12:2 Message bible

"You ain't right" begins when we fix our attention on God and not the culture.

"You ain't right" will happen when we start to recognize what Jesus wants from us.

Are you ready to not be right?

Our first "You ain't right" comes from Jesus' message on a mountain. He began his message with the beatitudes of being blessed. Then he goes right into our first, "You ain't right" adjustment.

Jesus was very clear in his instructions to us and why we are here. Do you remember your part in this ceremony of life? We are not the ring bearers but more like the **flavor-full** carriers.

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage." Matthew 5:13 Message bible

Jesus makes it very clear that the reason we are here is to be **FLAVOR-FULL!**

You ain't right...be salt seasoning...be FLAVOR-FULL!

Jesus was calling the people then, as well as you and I today, to bring His Flavor of life to those around us. He called them to be the salt of the earth kind of people.

Jesus used salt to illustrate three qualities that should be found in his people:

1. We should remember God's faithfulness, just as salt when used with a sacrifice recalled God's covenant with His people. (Leviticus 2:13) Salt was used to show the strength and permanence of a contract. Salt sealed the deal! Salt was used as a reminder to the people of the covenant God was making with his people.

To be FLAVOR-FULL we are to be reminded of the strong covenant we are to make with God through our faith in Jesus.

2. Salt seasons and changes the flavor of the meat or food it is added to. Jesus called the people to make a difference in the "flavor" of the culture they lived.

To be FLAVOR-FULL we are to bring seasoning into the lives of people around us in such a way that they look at us with that expression, "you ain't right!"

We are to bring God-flavor into people's lives in such a way that it will make the taste of life seem so much more FLAVOR-FULL!

3. Salt was a natural preservative. It would keep meat from decaying. Jesus calls us to be salt...to counteract against the culture's moral decay. We are to speak up and stand up against the cultural moral decays.

We are not to conform to the ways of the culture, to fit into it without even thinking. If the ring drops on our side we are to pick it up! We are to bring faith seasoning to our culture.

Salt can lose its flavor. When it gets wet and then dries, nothing is left but a tasteless residue.

How many are familiar with Morton Salt? This is a company that began in 1848 as a small business selling salt. Do you know the company's logo? The Morton Salt Girl! She is a young girl walking in the rain with an opened umbrella and scattering salt behind her from a cylindrical container of table salt.

The Morton company's slogan is, "When it rains it pours!" originated in 1914 when the company added magnesium carbonate to the salt as a moisture absorbent. Even when it got wet it was still useful.

Many Christians blend into the culture. They allow the culture's immoral moisture to penetrate their hearts and minds. They avoid allowing the love of Jesus to be added into their daily lives. Even when it rains in life they are not wanting to stand up for Christ. They don't want someone to say to them, "You ain't right!" In doing so they become useless to God!

Jesus tells us that if we lose our FLAVOR-FULL lives for him then we are worthless. We become a "BLAND-BELIEVER!" We have no real affect on the people in our lives. We are not living up to why we are here!

Jesus put it this way:

"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor the manure pile; it is thrown out."

Luke 14:34-35 NIV

Flavor-less is useless!

How many of us enjoy flavor-less food? Anyone ever been put on a bland diet by your doctor?

I am a spicy food fan! Season my food with hot spices that bring out the amazing flavor of the meat or food. Don't even suggest a plain anything to me.

We all enjoy FLAVOR-FULL food!

Flavor-less life is not what Jesus expects of us. We are not here to live a bland believer life. We are to make a difference in the culture we live in at home, work, school, the market place and our neighborhood.

We are to be the ones people look at and say, **"You ain't right!"** If not we will find Jesus throwing us on the manure pile!

We are called by Jesus to stand up for the purity of His truth. We are to represent the strong covenant of love that Jesus has desired to have with us. If we do our part in this relationship of living a flavor-full life for Him He will reward us, not with a king-sized Snickers bar, but with a FLAVOR-FULL life of eternity.

We are to bring the "you ain't right...flavor full" life into our culture. We are to help people to **"taste and see that the Lord is good."**(Psalm 34:8)

The God-flavors of his love are to be evident in our lives in practical actions. People will see how we live in a counter-cultural way that causes them to say, "You ain't right...but I like what I'm seeing."

The way we live out our FLAVOR-FULL life should be in such a way that draws others to want to taste it for themselves. We should be like the sample stands in grocery stores. People taste the sample and they like it so much that they buy all that is needed to make it for themselves.

When people sample your "you ain't right...flavor-full" life do they desire that for themselves? Or are you so bitter or bland that they don't want anything to do with that "God-flavored" life?

The "you ain't right...flavor-full" life is one that is not afraid to speak the truth of God's word in love. When we see immorality we are to offer God's moral truth in a flavor-filled way. We are to preserve the good in the world. We are to be there to help people from spoiling their lives on the culture's moral decay. We are to bring the flavor-full life of Jesus' love to people.

Being "salt-seasoning" in our culture is not easy and it will not get any easier. It requires a daily decision to be willing to have people say to us or look at us with a face that says, **"You ain't right!"** Our flavor-full life in Christ will be challenged if we live it out in our daily journey. It will call us to make sacrifices. It calls us to an unswerving commitment to Jesus. Even in the rainy days of life His flavor-full love will still pour out of our lives.

How flavor-full is your faith in Jesus each day?

What flavor would your faith be to those around you?

What taste does your flavor-full life in Jesus leave in others lives?

Is it a "You ain't right...whoa that is amazing! What's your recipe?" Or is it a "Yuck! That is so disgustingly hypocritical and bland!"

Are you making a difference in your world with a bold believer flavor-full life?

Or are you not affecting your culture, the people around you, because of your bland believer life?

Why are you here?

You are here to live a "You ain't right...FLAVOR-FULL" life in Jesus!

I pray that we will be reminded and challenged to live this "you ain't right...flavor full" life each time we take a bite of our favorite seasoned food.

You ain't right...live the flavor full life in Jesus.

That's why we are here!

Can someone please pass the salt!