

For everyone will be salted with fire. (Mar 9:49)

In Leviticus 2:13 sacrifices are burned with fire and have salt added to them. The smell of the sacrifices and the salt of the covenant has the effect of making the sacrifice pleasing to God.

In Mark 9:49-50, salted with fire is a symbol of the trials and costs of discipleship (e.g. removal of hand, foot, eye) using the language of sacrifice. The trials/costs inherent in following Jesus are certain to arise in our lives and are intended to have a purifying effect in our lives as well as being sacrifices pleasing to God.

Fire and salt can be agents of purification and preservation.