

## **MARK 9:38-50 PART 1**

### **REVIEW:**

- Let's just do a quick review of our recent highlights.
- Jesus begins to leave the area of Galilee and heads toward Jerusalem.
- Begins to tell the disciples of His coming death.
- Mount of transfiguration.
- The disciples failure to cast out the demon in the young boy.
- The disciples dispute over who is the greatest.
- Jesus teaches on greatness.

### **READ MARK 9:38-50**

#### **VS. 38 - 40:**

- John seems to have interrupted Jesus at this point. (38-41) and verse 42 could follow directly after 37.
- One cannot but notice that John's concern regarding the man casting out demons in Jesus' name and his attempt to stop him from doing so, when the disciples had just failed in their attempt to cast out the devil from the young mute and deaf boy. (vs. 28)
- No one can do a miracle in Jesus' name who does not have faith in Jesus and honor Him.

#### **VS. 41:**

- It doesn't have to be a great thing one does in Jesus' name; even a simple cup of water to one of Christ's followers, if done for Jesus, is cause for reward. This is being great in His eyes.
  - VS. 34 who will be the greatest.
- It need not be a great miracle, just an act of love for Jesus.
  - **Col. 3:23-24**

#### **VS. 42:**

- A little child refers to a convert, one who believes in Jesus. Perhaps a young or a vulnerable or weaker believer.
- To be offended or to stumble, to fall.
- To stumble so badly as to desire to leave the way. To give up.
- To doubt and to lose faith in Jesus is to commit sin.
- We must be careful of our conduct, or life style that we would not cause one of Jesus' little ones to fall away or weaken his determination to follow hard after Jesus.

- **Our motivation not to cause to stumble, springs from Jesus and His love for the church.**
  - **1 Cor. 13:4-8a Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never ends**
- **The warning is very serious. One that every leader or teacher, and every Christian must be sensitive about, and also the importance of how we treat one another.**
  - **Gal. 6:10; Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.**
  - **1 Cor. 8:12; But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.**
  - **Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,**
- **A great millstone. One that a donkey is needed to pull due to its size and weight.**
- **So we must be careful of our actions or lack of actions so as not to cause someone to stumble to give up.**
  - **Rom. 14:13, 15:1-3, 6-7**
  - **Heb. 10:24; And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,**

**These next several verses may be the most radical call to serious discipleship in the whole bible, and it comes from the lips of Jesus.**

**Up to this time we have seen in the gospels Jesus' call to repent, to deny ourselves, to take up your cross and follow, even to the point of suffering or dying for His sake,**

**To be willing to forsake family ties, to hate our own lives, to lose ourselves, to give up one's life, and to forsake everything and unconditionally follow Jesus.**

**VS. 43:**

**What was Jesus' motivation to speak again about hell? Was it not love? Perhaps we should recognize these verses as verses of love.**

**Jesus was not using hell as a beating stick to whack people with, but as a warning of the potential of coming danger, because He cared, He loved.**

**These things, these descriptions of hell come from Jesus, who also said, For I did not speak on My own, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. JN. 12:49**

**These descriptions are God's view not mans.**

**We could title VS. 43-48 as RADICAL (essential) PURITY. True discipleship.**

- **Christians cannot lead others into righteousness unless they are righteous themselves.**
- **The word "hell" here in the Greek is the word Gehenna.**
- **A word used 12X in the N.T. and 11 of those 12 times it comes from the mouth of Jesus.**
- **He uses it with specific suggestiveness and which the disciples and all who would hear fully understood.**
- **GEHENNA: It is a gorge or a canyon or a steep valley outside Jerusalem, S. SW of the city.**
- **Called Tophet by Solomon, who erected an alter there for the worship of Moloch.**
- **I think a literal translation of Moloch would be "king of shame." Also a name used for Baal.**
- **In later years both king Ahaz and Manasseh had offered some of their children to Moloch in that valley.**
- **Moloch is mostly associated with the sacrifice of little children who were burned alive in the idol's arms.**
- **This was practice until the times of reformation under king Josiah.**
- **Josiah destroyed the idol and defiled the valley where Moloch had been worshipped.**
- **Casting refuse, garbage, there making it at that time and throughout successive years the place where all the foul, filth and debris from the city were thrown.**
- **It is reported by some commentators that the unclaimed dead and some criminal's bodies were thrown there and also dead animals.**
- **This garbage dump smoldered and burned continually.**
- **Here the continual unending fires, smoke and maggots became a familiar picture of hell.**
  - **Isa. 66:24; "And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence (a loathing -disgusting) to all flesh."**
- **Jesus spoke and used the name Gehenna freely when speaking and wanting his listeners to get a picture of hell.**
- **He speaks of it being the place of perpetual punishment beyond this life.**
- **A place in the universe of God made necessary by the disobedience of Satan, his angelic followers and now unrepentive sinners.**
  - **Rev. 20:10, 13-15; <sup>10</sup> The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**

- So the warnings in verses 43,45,47,48. 3 times repeated by Jesus, to give us an indication of the consequences of not really living for Jesus, not growing in sanctification and the awfulness of sin and hell.
- This is a picture of the seriousness of sin and the view a true Christian need to have or I should say, a practice of life a born-again person must exhibit.
- True believers are not people who just confess Christ with their mouths, professing to be a Christian. Having a form of godliness but denying the power there of. 2 Tim. 3:5, but ones who live a crucified life.
  - 1 Jn. 3:9-10; No one who has been born of God practices sin, because His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin *continually*, because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: <sup>[a]</sup> anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother *and sister*. NASB
  - Rom. 8:13-14; For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
  - Mt. 7:22-23
- On-going sanctification is proof of Christ within.
- What a contrast we see between the destiny of the unbelievers who are cast out into a Gehenna were their worm dies not, (maggots) and of unquenchable fire, and the children of God.
  - Mt. 13:41-43
  - Mt. 25:32-35;
  - See Rev. 22:1-4

- **To die not is to absolutely to not have an end, no ending.**
- **Fire is not quenched. Again, the negative, absolutely not! To never be extinguished.**
- **See parallels of vs 43-48, in Matt. 5:23-30, and Matt. 18:6-9**