

## **MARK 9:43-48 PART 3**

### **REVIEW:**

#### **VS. 43:**

- These verses emphasize several important themes.
  - 1) The absolute necessity of holiness, of purity.
  - 2) The horrors of sin and its consequences.
  - 3) The untold value of the human soul.
- Here we are given a description of hell coming from the mouth of Jesus, who also said, For I do 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.
- If this is the verbal description of hell, how terrible must the reality of hell be.
- What was Jesus' motivation to speak again about hell? Was it not care and concern for His hearers? 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.
- Also, these are some of the strongest statements in the bible regarding discipleship, and the consequences of not following Christ. The importance of personal discipline.

#### **READ MARK 9:42-50**

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

- "HELL" the Greek word here 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 one which the disciples and all who would hear fully understood.
- **GEHENNA**: It is a gorge, a canyon or a steep valley outside Jerusalem, S. SW of the city.
- It was called Tophet by Solomon, who erected an altar there for the worship of Moloch.
- Moloch is mostly associated with the sacrifice of little children who were burned alive in the idol's arms.
- In later years both king Ahaz and Manasseh worshipped and even offered some of their children to Moloch in that valley.
- This was practiced until the times of reformation under king Josiah.
- Josiah destroyed the idol and defiled the valley where Moloch had been worshipped.
- Casting refuse and garbage there making it at that time and throughout successive years the place where all the foul, filth and debris from the city was thrown.

- **It is reported by some commentators that the unclaimed dead and some criminal's bodies were thrown there as well as dead animals.**
- **This garbage dump smoldered and burned continually.**
- **Here the continual unending fires, smoke and maggots became a familiar picture of hell. Isaiah speaks of it in chapter 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.**
- **Their worm does NOT die. NOT is an "absolute, 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. 18:7-9**
- **The fires of Gehenna are not corrective, nor are they for purification as the Catholic purgatory suggest, they are a life sentence for rejecting the mercy of God.**
- **It is the just and due reward for those who have rejected and insulted a holy God and who have not accepted His terms of peace and surrender.**
- **Again, these are Gods' chosen words and descriptions of hell, they are not my words or warnings. This is His teaching.**
- **So the warnings in verses 43,45,47& 48, 3 times repeated by Jesus, to give us an indication of the consequences and of not really living for Jesus, not being consecrated to Him.**
- **As a wise man once said, "if I am on the throne, then Jesus is still on the cross, If Jesus is on the throne, then I am on the cross.**
- **This is also 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.**
  - **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.**
- **It is also a picture of the cost of discipleship, it will cost you everything.**

- 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: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother *and sister*. NASB
- On-going sanctification is proof of Christ within.
- Again, these verses stress the absolute necessity to pursue holiness and keep our passions under the rule of the Holy Spirit.
- Now we know the real problem is not a physical problem. The problem is a heart problem. The heart must know circumcision.
- One cannot maim himself into heaven.
  - **MK. 7:20-23**
- The existence of evil in our hearts, the pride of life, the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, (1 Jn. 2:16) The desire to build our own kingdom.
- Oh this is not easily gotten rid of.
- We do not just grow out of them, we must cut them off, they must be crucified if we are to have victory over them and grow in Christ likeness.
  - **Rom. 6:1-14**
  - 1 Cor. 9:27; but I strictly discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified. (NASB)

In closing let's take notice of 2 things;

- 1) Notice the follower who deeply disciplines himself is said to "enter into life."
- LIFE: Life as God has in Himself. Zoe. This is the life we were intended to live, the flourishing of enjoyable life.
- It is not loss but gain even as Paul tells us in Phil. 3:7-8; Those things that seemed to be gain to him, he counted as loss.
- He threw them overboard and thus happily suffered the loss of all things that he may gain.
- 2) the great contrast between the destiny of the unbelievers and believers.
  - The unbelievers are cast out into a Gehenna were their worm dies not, (maggots) and of unquenchable fire is not quenched, and the children of God.
  - While the zealous believers enter into life.
    - **1 Thess. 4:16-17**
    - **See Rev. 22:1-4**

OH YES WE HAVE AN ENJOYABLE fullness, an eternal joy in our FUTURE.

There is a higher throne.