

MARK 9:49-50 FIRE & SALT

INTRO:

VS. 49

- Please note the little word which begins our verse; “for.”
- It is a conjunction, used to connect clauses or sentences.
- We need to go back to verses 43-48, where we are challenge to a radical and serious discipleship to God.
- Radical with our self-discipline, that we may be true disciples, who have sold our all, picked up our cross and truly follow Him.
- In these 6 verses Jesus mentions the fire of hell 6x and being identified as a fire that shall never no never be quenched 5x.
- And then we must ask ourselves, why did Jesus speak verses 43-48, and we find that it was in response to the self-absorbed attitude of His disciples which we see in verses 33-40.
- Their pride, and a self-love;
 - Who will be the greatest, and this in the shadow of Jesus revealing yet again His coming death and resurrection.
 - The right they felt they had to have Jesus to themselves, an exclusivity which they felt was theirs and one that they should rule over and they alone could wield power in Jesus’s name.
- He had to expose to them and challenge them to rid themselves of it, by the power of the Holy Spirit, if they were to be like their Master and please God.
- These prideful corrupt feelings and attitudes were the things Jesus was warning them about, things that would offend, cause them to stumble and thus, “if not put to death in their hearts” would cause them to be cast into hell.”
- And now coming to vs. 49, Jesus wraps all this up by giving the reason why they should be so zealous to follow Him;
- The Lords disciples shall be; **BE SALTED WITH FIRE, AND EVERY SACRIFICE SHALL BE SALTED WITH SALT.**
- Jesus here brings to our minds view the thought of His disciples as sacrifices, as offerings.
 - **Lev. 2:13**
 - Rom. 12:1
 - We are priests, not only to stand ministering and interceding before God for ourselves and others, but also to offer sacrifices of which we are the sacrifice, we are that which we offer.
- Fire is spoken of and used in the Bible in 3 main ways.
 - 1) For destruction and judgment. (Sodom and G. Arons sons.,)
 - 2) For purification and cleansing. (Job 23; 1 Petr. 1:7, 4:12)
 - 3) Zeal for and of God. (**Lev. 6:12, 13**)
- I believe that in this case all three can be justified.

- Then we have the picture of "SALT," and being salted with salt.
- Salt also has several uses and pictures for us in the Bible.
 - 1) For purification. (wounds)
 - 2) For preservation. (food)
 - 3) For flavor.
- Again, I believe all three could be used here.
- Perhaps in these verses fire and salt are interchangeable.
- Jesus using the phrase "salted with fire" which means that fire is as salt is sprinkled onto meat or something perishable.
- This is not an unfamiliar statement to us for we find John B. using it in LK. 3:16 where he exchanges the word salted, for the word, baptized.
- Here the baptism of fire has the same implication as the purification work and preserving work of salt.
- Salt and fire work for the same ends in God's saving/purifying work.
- Here fire purifies, thus preserving the soul.
- The fire of God burning, purifying, cleansing, our souls from self and sin, thus preserving our souls for God and keeping us from hell.
- We have been salted, baptized with this fire.
- We are to be the salt of the earth. We are to make a difference. (Matt. 5:13)

VS 50

- Sanctification suspended. Having lost the zeal to pursue Christ, to follow Christ at all costs, to cut off, to pluck out..Thus fading in Christ likeness, that which is a sweet smelling savor unto the Father.
- Rom. 12:11; "Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord." Instead of the word *fervent*, some translations say that you should *be aglow*. It means that you should boil. We get the word *fervent* from *fervens* in Latin, which means *boil*.
- So, if you're a fervent person, your spirit is alive. It's quickened, it's boiling for something, and God ought to be the big boil in your life.
 - 2 Tim. 1:6 Rev. 3:14-22
 - 1 Sam. 30:6 Strengthened himself in the Lord..
- To have peace with one another.
- Do away with a competitive spirit, there is no place in the church of God for this. The only one we are to compete with is ourselves.
 - James 3:14-15 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic.
 - Col. 4:6; *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*
 - Rom. 12: 17-18; Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.
- Heb. 12:14; Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord