



Week of September 30, 2018

Mark 9:38-50

³⁸ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us."

³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us.

⁴¹ For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴² "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.

⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.

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⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.,

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⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,

⁴⁸ where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹ "For everyone will be salted with fire.

⁵⁰ Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. What is your number one pet peeve about behavior you see in public?
- B. Name the area of your life where you have come closest to maximizing your potential?

Bible Study Questions:

1. In verse 40, when Jesus says "Whoever is not against us is for us" – do you tend to feel this way, or do you lean toward the idea "whoever is not for us is against us"?
2. Read verse 41 carefully, why is Jesus speaking of those who give "you" a cup of water "because you bear the name of Christ"? Who is the "you"? How does the phrase "because you bear the name of Christ" affect how you understand the verse?
3. In verses 43, 45, and 47, if we don't understand the mutilation to be literal, what would be a metaphorical/symbolic way to apply that instruction?
4. Considering verse 42, what would be everyday examples of how mature Christians put "stumbling blocks" in the way of less mature Christians?
5. Jesus gives us a very direct depiction of hell in this passage. How real is hell to you? Over time, how have you grown more aware of the full extent of your sinfulness? How have you grown more aware of God's forgiveness?
6. Which is the source of temptation that troubles you most: your hands (things you grasp), your feet (where you go), or your eyes (what you covet)? How can you "cut this off" from your life?
7. In what ways should you have greater expectations of yourself?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about having appropriate expectations of ourselves.