

Life, Death, and the War against Sin (Mark 9:42-50)

3.4.18

We Are at War

We are in a war against sin, eternity is at stake, and those who acknowledge this fact, arm themselves for battle, and go forth to fight will be **saved**, while those who surrender to the oncoming assault and let sin occupy their heart like a conquering enemy will be **lost**.

The Stakes of the Battle

Mark 9:42-50 establishes that we are in a battle against sin, with our eternal destiny at stake. Three truths must be established, and one objection answered:

1. This is a warning to **disciples**.
2. The stakes are **heaven** and **hell**.
3. There is **collateral damage** to sin.
4. Yet, salvation remains entirely of **grace**.

The Sacrifice Required

Jesus makes the point that violent, decisive sacrifice will be required in the battle against sin if we are going to emerge victorious.

- The hand = what you **do** that causes you to sin.
- The foot = where you **go** that causes you to sin.
- The eye = what you **see** that causes you to sin.

What do you need to cut off/tear out of your life in order to win the battle against sin?

Do you recognize that heaven and hell hangs in the balance?

“Be killing sin, or it will be killing you.” - John Owen