

Gospel of Mark

Serious About the Salt

Mark 9:42-50

Opener: The tone of Jesus' teaching for disciples in this passage is quite serious. When challenged, do you typically feel inspired, challenged, discouraged, or something else?

Read Mark 9:42-50

1. What does it mean to cause someone to stumble? What are some ways that some "Christians" cause other Christians to stumble presently in the church in America?
2. Why does Jesus use such extreme language to describe the measures one should take to get sin out of their life? What does this teach you about sin and about the kind of relationship you are to have with sin?
3. Is there a sin that you have tolerated where you need to take radical measures to get it out of your life?
4. What is Jesus talking about when he says that "Everyone will be salted with fire"? Read 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 for context for understanding the experience of fire that he is teaching about here.
5. What does it mean for Christians to be salt? What is Jesus saying about Christians who lose their saltiness?
6. What can a community of Christians do to keep its saltiness?
7. What barriers keep you from leading conversations toward spiritual matters and the gospel? What can you do to overcome each of those barriers?
8. How does the reality of hell and judgment change the urgency for sharing the gospel with others?

Live What You Have Learned: What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do in response to what you have learned today in God's Word?