

Waging War against Sin

Text: Mark 9:42-50

Context - Jesus has displayed his messianic authority and power (The Crown) in Mark 1:1-8:26. In Mark 8:27-16:8 - Jesus will go through his trials and tests as the messiah (The Cross). In Mark 9:30-50, Jesus is focused on instructing us in discipleship.

As you battle sin...

1. _____ **others (vs. 42)**

- A. To cause someone to fall away refers to hindering discipleship or causing someone to sin. (Ross McLaren)
- B. The penalty is horrific, suggesting eternal punishment in Gehenna (vv. 43, 45, 47). The millstone, turned by an ox or donkey, is huge; some were six feet or more in diameter. (Grant Osborne)

2. _____ **sin at its source (vs. 43-47)**

- A. Jesus' words are to be taken figuratively; no amount of self-mutilation can deal with sin, which is an issue of the heart. The Lord is emphasizing the seriousness of sin and the need to do whatever is necessary to deal with it. (John MacArthur)
- B. This is the only place where Mark used the word for hell (Gk gehenna). The imagery for hell developed from the Hinnom Valley southwest of Jerusalem. This valley was used for pagan human sacrifice (2Kg 16:3; 21:6; Jr 7:31), hence the association with unquenchable fire and perpetual rot (their worm does not die). (Ross McLaren)

3. _____ **yourself to God (vs. 48-50)**

- A. These verses confirm that Jesus looks far beyond the possible removal of a member of the body (Mark 9:43-48) and focuses on thorough, inner sacrifice, purification, and cleansing. The growing disciple is purified in surrender to God. To "be salted" means to be offered in purifying "fire" through the removal of sin. (Iain M. Duguid)
- B. In the Old Testament - salt was thrown into the fire with offerings. The offerings would be burnt up. To "be salted" means to be offered in purifying "fire" through the removal of sin. (Leviticus 2:13; Ezekiel 43:24)