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| 1  Mark 9:14-50  09/10/23  “Are You A True Disciple?”  INTRO:  Acts Chapter 8 bizarre and wild account:  City of Samaria a magician named Simon  -Was famous and great  -Called “The Great Power of God”  -Fame soon taken away from Him by Philip  -He believed (falsely) and was baptized  -When he saw Peter and John laying hands on people for the Holy Spirit, he wanted to buy that authority  -What was Peter’s response to him?  “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. | 2  Therefore, repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity.” But Simon answered and said, “Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”  Why am I sharing this?  “Because I want you to see what it looks like to be a false disciple of Christ.”  MAIN POINT:  Mark is going to show you today in in this passage what are the marks of a true disciple of Christ by way of negative examples  REVIEW:  Last week we saw pivotal confession of Peter  -Peter’s vision was opened but it was unclear  -He denied Jesus  -Couldn’t reconcile suffering with the Messiah |
| 3  Thus, Jesus transfigured Himself before them to show that suffering and death are the keys to victory, that is the way of Christ  At this point in Mark, less miracles and raw displays of power of Jesus but more on suffering and death of Jesus in later half  To emphasis Son of God is also Son of Man  BODY:  Jesus and disciples come down from mountain and trouble is brewing  9:14  “Why are you discussing with them?”  Person from crowd answers he has a demon-possessed son  The boy is mute and has violent convulsions  9:18 Jesus’ disciples could not cast it out | 4  9:19 (read)  Jesus speaks generally but specifically pointed to disciples  Lk 9:41  “you unbelieving and perverted generation”  After all this time, this lack of trust was inexcusable to the Lord  Jesus commands boy to be brought to Him  Boy convulses, “convulses” = “tear, rend, maul”  Demon cannot sit still in the presence of the Holy one of God  Jesus asks how long has this been occurring?  Father answers “since childhood”  Demon tries to kill the boy by drowning him and throwing him into the fire |
| 5  Man asks “if you can” do anything, take pity on us and help us!  Jesus: “If you can?”  Father doubted Jesus’ ability but not his willingness  Opposite of leper in Mark 1:40 who didn’t doubt Jesus’ power to heal but his willingness to heal.  Jesus: “All things are possible to him who believes.”  Jesus has mercy and compassion but demon gives one last violent protest in being cast out  Jesus takes boy by hand, and raises him up  While the boy is not confirmed as actually dead, the raising up should have reminded disciples of Jairus’ daughter  The prince of life has overcome the prince of death and they didn’t rely on the prince of life in casting out this demon | 6  The disciples were likely trying to show off their demon casting ability by themselves to the scribes  -Not doing it by faith  1st Mark Of A True Disciple:  Disciples must abide in Christ. They were not abiding.  9:30 (read)  Second time Jesus talks about his future suffering and death, but this time adds extra detail that he will be delivered into the hands of men and be killed  The very people He came to save will be the ones who will put Him to death  Once again, disciples are afraid to ask Him what this means  -Perhaps they feared Jesus’ rebuke of Peter  9:33  Jesus comes to Capernaum “what were you discussing on the way?”  -Silence |
| 7  They were discussing who was the greatest  -Like Matthew 18 about rank and position in  kingdom  -They still didn’t get it  In Jesus’ infinite wisdom He teaches lesson immediately  9:35-37 (read)  9:38  John abruptly interrupts the Lord saying they tried to stop unknown ally  But Jesus says to not hinder this man (read 39-41)  Irony: This man had more faith in the Lord than these disciples. They couldn’t cast it out despite being with Jesus personally. He could cast it out despite not personally being with Jesus  John had a rivalry with this exorcist like disciples of John the Baptist did with Jesus | 8  2nd Mark Of A True Disciple:  True disciples are humble and seek to put others first rather than exalt themselves  John had elitism and pride which is inside of all of you. You wouldn’t fare any better. If God chose you to be one of his personal disciples, you would probably be tempted to think you are special!  9:42  Jesus comes back to his object lesson of child in his arms and says shocking statement (read V. 42)  The point is not making literal children stumble as bad as that is, but about causing new believers to stumble into sin  John just demonstrated what followers of Christ should not do  John and the disciples doused this new believer’s passionate fire in the Lord with the waters of cold skepticism |
| 9  3rd Mark Of A True Disciple:  True Disciples are concerned about the holiness of others.  Another shocking statement (read V. 43)  Not only cause others to stumble but to make you don’t stumble yourselves. If they continue habit of sin, they are in danger of hellfire.  “hell” = “Gehenna” where we get “Hinnom Valley”  “Hinnom Valley”  Child sacrifice occurred by King Ahaz and Manasseh  But King Josiah destroyed the practice and made Hinnom Valley into continually burning garbage dump  Became picture of everlasting hellfire  Jesus is not literally saying to dismember yourself  Professor who knew someone who chopped off their hand | 10  Origen castrated himself because of this wrong interpretation of this verse  Jesus is making a hyperbole because you have other hand to sin  The point: You must be relentless with your sin  Like Samuel in 1 Sam. 15:33 who hacked Agag to pieces  -Listen to John MacArthur’s sermon on sin called “Hacking Agag to Pieces” amazing sermon  Saul allowed remaining sin in his life, Samuel finished the job  Enforces horrific imagery of worm that never dies and fire never quenched  Because it was a garbage dump, it attracted worms that would eat the garbage  Similarly, there will be worms in hell that will eat away at your soul as you are being consumed by a fire that never is put out |
| 11  So it will be for you if you don’t deal with ongoing sin  This is why you proclaim the gospel because the thought of an eternal hell should horrify you  If you truly love someone, you will warn them of coming danger  You will warn someone of an oncoming car right?  How much more should you warn someone of eternal death?!  4th Mark Of A True Disciple:  A true disciple is concerned with his own holiness  VV. 49-50  Jesus concludes this teaching “For everyone will be salted with fire”  Disciples will be purified throughout by suffering and persecution  Different kind of fire, not “fire” of eternal hell | 12  It is purifying “fire” of 1 Peter 1:7  Peter was writing to persecuted believers and called it “fire”  7: “so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, “even though tested by fire,” may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”  Fire that purifies and burns dross off  Once saved we are spared from eternal condemnation but we still will go through the fires of purification  1 Cor. 3  Unbiblical work will be burnt up even though person will be saved  Peter understood concept, 1 Pt. 4:18  “And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?” |
| 13  9:50 (read)  Referring to salt gathered from vicinity of Dead Sea contaminated with gypsum. If not properly processed it could lose its effectiveness as preservative and become unsalty and tasteless.  Luke adds saltless salt is not even fit for the manure pile  Disciples were in danger of losing their salty quality because they were enamored with their own pride, power prestige and rank in the kingdom  Gal. 5:15 warns of this  “But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.”  Light of the world also they are “salt of the earth”  Disciples learned some hard lessons and truths from their Lord. But these apply directly to you today: | 14  1st Mark:  You can’t do ministry on own power and strength  John 15:5  “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”  How do you abide in Christ?  John 15:10  “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”  2nd Mark:  Exhibit True Humility  -Consider others more important than yourself  -Jesus is ultimate example of that  3rd Mark:  Don’t cause other believers to sin |
| 15  Paul had every right to eat pork but he didn’t insist on his freedom and rights for the sake of weaker believers  4th Mark:  Utmost hatred of your sin  -If you find it painful to let go of your sin, you are not hating sin enough  -World might think you are crazy or legalistic but you must kill sin  -In fact, if world doesn’t think you are crazy or legalistic, maybe you are doing something wrong  If you don’t take sin seriously, your salt will lose its effectiveness  You will be fighting among other believers  James 4:1-4  “What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? | 16  Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?You lust and do not have; *so* you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; *so* you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”  If you have not dealt with your sin, then hell is awaiting you where worm never dies and fire is never quenched  Even for those of you who have received the knowledge of the truth, but keep on habitually sinning, the Bible has a warning for you too. |
| 17  Hebrews 10:26-31  “For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on *the testimony of* two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”  But…this same God is merciful and compassionate  He has given you Mark and all the rest of Scripture to show you how great a love He has for sinners  He came to rescue you from your sin | 18  He came to set you free from Satan  He came to crush the head of the serpent  He came as a man to take your place on the cross to pay your debt  He came not only to pay the debt you owed to God for your disobedience but to actively obeyed the law that God required of each and every person so that you will be credited with His righteousness  Romans 5:8-10  “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath *of God* through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”  What great news! What irresistible grace!  Cry out to the Lord “Lord I believe, help my unbelief!” |