

Cut It Out!
Mark 9:38-50

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I. Exclusive followers. Mark 9:38-41

John basically said, "Only we can perform healings in Jesus' name" because this man was not a part of their _____ circle.

- We have to be careful not to place the Lord in a box with our small thinking; but we also have to be very careful to _____ all things by the Word of God and hold fast to that which is true.

"Only two _____ are at work in the world, the gathering and the scattering. Whoever does the one contradicts the other." (Morgan)

II. Little ones caused to stumble. Mark 9:42

Some interpret this passage to say Jesus was not referring to a literal child like the one He held in **verse 36**; but rather, based on **verse 41**, He is referring to all of those who _____ to Him. **1 John 2:12**

- Embracing the role of a servant involves identifying with the lowly, as well as extending the _____ of Jesus to the lowly.

III. Nothing worse than hell. Mark 9:43-48

Jesus is stating that it is better to be physically impaired on earth than to _____ your eternity apart from Christ.

- "Jesus warns us that we must be willing to _____ in fighting against sin, that nothing is worse than facing the wrath of a righteous God." (Guzik)

A modern day interpretation of **Mark 9:43** might be: if the _____ causes you to stumble, unplug it no matter how much you think you need it.

IV. Fire and Salt. Mark 9:49-50

The world we live in is filled with every kind of _____ and _____ rottenness, decay, and pollution.

- a. Salt _____.
- b. Salt _____.
- c. Salt provides _____.
- d. Salt _____.

The Lord tells us that we should hunger and thirst for things He can offer that will satisfy our deepest _____. **Matthew 5:6**

- Because Jesus is our Lord and Savior, we know we are His _____; so we need to represent Him as salt in a lost, sinful, and dying world. **Ephesians 2:10**

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **Mark 9:38-41**. What do you think John's motivation was for telling Jesus about the man who cast demons out of people? Do you think John was being jealous or frustrated? What do you think John should have focused on?
Mark 9:17-18, John 10:10, Ephesians 2:10
2. Are there times we hear of miracles or other things that supposed Christians do or experience and are quick to dismiss them because they make us uncomfortable? How should we test things outside of our comfort zones with other denominations or Christians?
Matthew 12:30, 1 Thessalonians 5:21, 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20
3. Read **Mark 9:42**. What are the main two choices about who the "little children" are in this passage? What did Jesus warn people who would lead His children astray.
Mark 9:35, 1 John 2:12, 1 John 2:28-29
4. Read **Mark 9:43-48**. Was Jesus being literal with these statements? What did Rich say the modern interpretation of **Mark 9:43** could be? How should a Christian deal with sin in their life?
Genesis 4:4-7, Romans 3:23, 1 Corinthians 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Galatians 5:19-21, 1 John 1:8-10
5. Read **Mark 9:49-50**. Discuss the four things Salt does within the life of a Christian.
Matthew 5:13