

Title: Love's Warning: Sin is Serious, Hell is Real

Passage: Mark 9:42-48

Introduction

Three types of people

- Non-believers in Christ
- True disciples of Jesus
- False disciples of Jesus (ex: Judas Iscariot)

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

2 Timothy 2:13

if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Context of Passage:

- Audience: those who professed to be followers of Jesus. Message was intended for disciples to hear.
- Speaker: Jesus (not just One who loves but also is just)

Passage: Mark 9:42-48

“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire....And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell... And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’

Exposition

Jesus warning to those He loves

- It is better to speak the truth and heal rather than speak a lie and allow death.
- Genuine love warns those who are in danger

I. Warning against leading others into sin

Mark 9:42

“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.

Little ones who believe in me

- Meaning = young believers
 - Clear from context as previously talking about others who were not original disciples yet serving in ministry

Mark 9:38-39

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

Whoever causes...to sin

- Meaning = leading one into sin

it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.

- Comparison = it would be better to die a horrible sin rather than lead one into sin.

Sea

- Meaning = a place of chaos
- Compare: Revelation (there will be no sea)

Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

Application

Be careful you don't behave like unbelievers.

- enticing someone to behave contrary to God's law
 - Love the world or ungodly

1 Corinthians 8:9, 12-13

But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak....Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Malachi 2:8

But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts,

We must walk the talk. Someone is always watching you.

You're writing a Gospel,

A chapter each day,
By the deeds that you do,
By the words that you say;
Men read what you write,
Whether faithless or true;
Say, what is the Gospel
According to you?
-Paul Gilbert

II. Warning of stumbling ourselves by failing to take sin seriously

Mark 9:43-48

And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'

- Note: Not to be taken literally (self-mutilation) but figuratively and seriously.
- No amount of self-mutilation can address sin because sin is an issue of the heart.

Matthew 15:10-11

And he called the people to him and said to them, "Hear and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person."

James 4:1

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Hand...foot...eye

Proverbs 6:16-19

There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

- what God hates and concern all that we can do with feet, hands, eyes.

Application

Take sin seriously. Be as drastic as necessary. Get help if can't get free.

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

- living sacrifice = continually put yourself on the altar

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- where begin? renewing mind.

Philippians 2:12b-13

...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- a saving faith is a fighting faith
- Hate your sin, look for grace and help to remove it.

III. Warning of reality of hell

Mark 9:48

'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'

Isaiah 66:24

"And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

Reality of hell: Jesus talked about hell

- 1/7th of His teaching was about judgment and hell
- 1/2 of His parables mentioned judgment and hell.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Matthew 13:41-43

The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Luke 12:5

But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

Luke 16:19, 23-24 (Parable of The Rich Man and Lazarus)

"There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day....and in Hades, being in torment, [the rich man] lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he

called out, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'

Salvation may be received by faith in Christ.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 10:9

...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.