

# SERMON NOTES

**Preacher:** Kevin Hardy

**Date:** February 16, 2025

**Text:** Mark 9:42-50

**Title:** The Seriousness of Sin

**Big Idea:** Disciples of Jesus must take sin seriously and pursue holiness with urgency.



## I. **DON'T CAUSE OTHERS TO STUMBLE (v. 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.” (v. 42)*

Causing them to sin is “best understood of one who causes such a failure on the part of others, who ‘trips’ or ‘disables’ another’s discipleship.”<sup>1</sup>

## II. **FIGHT SIN (vv. 42-48)**

Hands being cut off. Feet being hacked off. Eyes being gouged out.

Better for all of this to happen and for you to enter the kingdom of God – than to be “thrown into hell, ‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’”

SIN IS SERIOUS.

Jesus is teaching us to take sin seriously.

“Hand” = what we do    “Foot” = where we go    “Eye” = what we look at and desire

“Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you.” – John Owen

## III. **BE SALTY & BE AT PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER (vv. 49-50)**

*For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” (vv. 49-50)*

Suffering & Sacrifice.

Jesus is talking about the cross & loving others & the severity of sin, and that there is a cost to discipleship.

*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. (Romans 12:1)*

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<sup>1</sup> R.T. France

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

*To be used for personal reflection and/or sermon-based small group discussion.*

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### READ Mark 9:30-41

What stands out to you the most in this passage? Why?

In verse 42, Jesus warns about causing “little ones” to stumble. Who do you think He is referring to, and what are some ways people might cause others to stumble in their faith today?

Verses 43-48 contain strong language about cutting off a hand, foot, or eye if it causes sin. What do you think Jesus means by this? How can we apply this principle practically?

Jesus repeatedly mentions hell (Gehenna) in this passage. What does this tell us about the seriousness of sin and judgment?

In verse 49, Jesus says, “Everyone will be salted with fire.” What do you think this means? How does it relate to the previous verses? Verse 50 talks about salt being good but losing its saltiness. How does this connect to the rest of the passage and to Christian life?

What are some things in your life that might be causing you or others to stumble? How can you deal with them in a Christ-honouring way? How can we encourage one another to take sin seriously without falling into legalism?

Jesus calls us to be “salty” in a good way (verse 50). What does that look like in your daily life? How can we preserve our “saltiness”? How can this passage shape the way we think about holiness, accountability, and our witness to others?

### PRAY