



LESSON 107 MARK 9:42-50

42And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea. **43**And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: **44**Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. **45**And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: **46**Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. **47**And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: **48**Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. **49**For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. **50**Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.

The previous lesson mentioned the reward for doing good, even if the person is not a follower of Jesus Christ. Mk 9:40-41 40"For he who is not against us is on our side. 41"For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. If someone does a good deed to help a believer, he will be rewarded for it. This lesson is about "rewards" for doing evil.

If you remember, Jesus had been holding a little child in His arms (Mk 9:36), when He made reference to "little ones." In this passage in Mark 9:42-50, Jesus warns of dire consequences for those who have evil intentions toward children and also believers, who sometimes are called "children" of God.

Previously, the disciples had brought the issue of the man who was casting out demons among the people, using Jesus' name as his power, and the disciples told him to quit. Jesus may have been referring to him as a "little one" in faith. Little ones, be they of faith or not, are not to be wronged. The word "offend" can mean "be caused to stumble." Jesus cautioned not to do anything that would cause a child of His to stumble in their faith or life. Read again the terrible consequences of such an offense in Mark 9:42-48.

Here's how a passage in Hebrews 10:27-31 describes the Lord's justice against certain wrong doers. But ... judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, ... an unholy thing, and hath done insult unto the Spirit of grace? 30For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord... 31It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The terrible "reward" or "recompense" for evil-doing shows the seriousness of the offence in the Lord's eyes. A millstone was a huge carved rock which was used to grind wheat and other grains into flour. The stone was so heavy, it took an ox to move it. Jesus said that having a millstone hung about the neck and being cast into the sea (with no chance of rescue or release) would be a better fate than

to have to pay eternally for the evil done to a child or a believer.

The words like " fire," "never quenched," and "dies not" mean there is no relief from the misery. These words show that serious and eternal judgment is already determined for those who will do evil against the believer and child of God, those who would try to cause a child or believer to stumble in his faith or to turn away from coming to Jesus or following the Lord Jesus. This passage points out how much the Lord loves and values His children and how He will bring vengeance against any who mistreat them.

Some additional points of this lesson:

The love of God does not cancel out His justice. It is a part of it.

Jesus used the things around Him, seed, trees, vines, etc., to teach His disciples God's principles. In Luke 18:15, He even used babies. 15Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 16But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. 17"Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." We can use ordinary things around us to introduce a conversation about the Lord and faith.

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