

Mark 9:42-50 – Get Radical About Sin

Leader's Guide

October 20, 2019

Read Mark 9:42-50 to familiarize yourself with the passage.

Temptations to Sin

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. ⁴³ 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. ⁴⁵ 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. ⁴⁷ 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, ⁴⁸ ‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ ⁴⁹ For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ 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.”

1. Read Mark 9:42-50. In this passage, Jesus talked about the importance of a radical love for other Christians. We must be careful to not cause younger Christians to stumble into sin. In what ways can we cause young believers to stumble into sin?

2. What do the following verses teach us about relinquishing our rights out of love for younger Christians? Romans 14:13-19; 1 Corinthians 8:10-13; 2 Corinthians 6:3) Are there times we shouldn't relinquish our rights? What in your life do you need to reconsider because it may not be helpful to younger Christians around you?

Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Romans 14:13-19 (ESV)

For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. 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. 1 Corinthians 8:10-13 (ESV)

We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 2 Corinthians 6:3 (ESV)

3. This weekend, Jesus talked about getting radical in our struggle against sin. We must be willing to do whatever it takes to remove from our life the lures of sin that habitually cause us to stumble. What are some of the lures Satan has used successfully in the past to lure you into sin by the things you see (eyes), the places you go (feet), or what you do (hands)? How can you avoid those tempting situations, places, hobbies, and people?

4. Study the following verses. Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:24; Colossians 3:5-8; Titus 2:12; 1 Peter 2:1-2. Why do they say it is important to address sinful habits in our lives? What do they say are the consequences of not addressing those sinful habits or tendencies? How do they tell us to battle those sinful temptations?

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:13 (ESV)

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:24 (ESV)

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Colossians 3:5-8 (ESV)

training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, Titus 2:12 (ESV)

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 1 Peter 2:1-2 (ESV)

5. While the Bible tells us it is impossible to lose our salvation because it is ultimately a gift of God we receive by faith, how are we to understand verses that warn us about the danger of falling away from the faith if we continue in sin? See these verses to illustrate that tension. Acts 16:31; John 3:16; Luke 7:50; Hebrews 12:15-17; Colossians 1:22-23; Matthew 7:21-23; Hebrews 6:4-6.

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." Acts 16:31 (ESV)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (ESV)

And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Luke 7:50 (ESV)

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears. Hebrews 12:15-17 (ESV)

he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. Colossians 1:22-23 (ESV)

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV)

For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. Hebrews 6:4-6 (ESV)