LIVING IN LIGHT OF HELL

MARK 9:42-50
CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – FEBRUARY 5, 2023

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 9:41-50 ESV

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."

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What's something you have done (or witnessed someone else do) to keep someone else from harm? Or, to what lengths would you go to keep someone from harm?

SERMON RECAP

- Jesus and the Bible clearly talk about hell. This means that we need to think and talk about hell.
  - We need to think and talk about hell biblically.
  - We need to think and talk about hell humbly.
  - We need to think and talk about hell personally.
- Jesus is saying:
  - Be serious about keeping others from sin.
  - Be serious about keeping yourself from sin.
- Hell is the place of dreadful, conscious, never-ending judgment for sinners.
- Choose life today by trusting in Jesus alone as your Savior and Lord.
  - Lay down your life every day in light of the gravity of sin and the urgency of eternity.
  - Pursue purity in your life so that you will be salt in others' lives.
  - Pursue peace in the church in light of what's at stake in the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does the passage say?

1. Read Mark 9:42-50 aloud as a group. Take some time to let group members share observations about the passage. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you have read quite yet. Simply share what you all observe from the text.
   - Who is Jesus talking to?
   - What events occurred right before this conversation? What is coming next?
   - Describe the tone Jesus uses in this passage. What specific wording in the passage leads you to answer the way you did?
   - What themes are covered in this passage? What does Jesus say about them?

What does the passage mean?

1. We see in this passage the sobering connection between our influence and actions on the lives of those around us. How does this passage describe the seriousness of causing another person to sin?
2. The symbolic language in this passage (E.g., "if your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off") shows us that sin is deadly and there is urgency to avoiding sin in our lives personally. What are some ways that hell is described throughout Scripture? (See Matt. 8:11-12, Matt. 13:40-42, Matt. 25:41, 2 Thes. 1:9, Rev. 14:10, Rev. 20:15)
3. Re-read Mark 9:50. How does Leviticus 2:13-16 help us understand what Jesus means by "be salted with fire?" (see also Matt. 5:13). If salt is purity (and the avoidance of sin), then how might your saltiness be a positive influence on those around you?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How can we apply these passage to our lives?

1. What are 2-3 practical ways you can be "salt" in others' lives this week, showing the life and love of Christ to people around you?
2. How is God leading you to pursue peace amidst conflict, tension, or division with any brothers or sisters in Christ?

   Note: Due to the nature of this topic and passage, please consider breaking into huddles (small groups of 3-4 people of the same gender) for a longer period of time this week to prayerfully process the following application questions that were given during the sermon:

3. Do you know for sure that you have eternal life and will go to heaven when you die?
4. What sin do you need to repent of today, and what drastic measures is God leading you to take in order to keep yourself from that sin?
5. In what ways are you leading others to sin, and how is God leading you to change that?

LEADER NOTES

Church Group Leaders, please share the following information with your Church Group:

1. Looking to serve? Check out mcleanbible.org/localoutreach for ideas and to register your event, or contact us at localoutreach@mcleanbible.org for additional assistance.
2. 2023 Trips -MBC sends short-term teams to help fuel the spread of the gospel among all nations. We invite all MBC members to consider joining a short-term trip. Applications are now open for late spring and early summer trips to the Arabian Peninsula, Central Asia, France, Italy, the Middle East, and more! Visit mcleanbible.org/globaloutreach to see open trips and apply today! (https://mcleanbible.gomethod.app/!/)