

## JESUS' CALL FOR RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP

--MARK 9:42-50--

### INTRODUCTION:

Our passage of Scripture this morning is Jesus teaching His disciples. Jesus is calling His disciples and us to the radical nature of true discipleship. The Lord Jesus does not sugar-coat what He has to say about true discipleship and because He does not, He is forceful, authoritative and radical as He calls us to true discipleship. He calls us to repent, to deny ourselves, even to the point of suffering or dying for His sake. He calls us to be willing to forsake all family ties and to hate our own lives in the sense that we are willing to lose them. In essence, He calls us to be willing to forsake everything and to unconditionally follow Him.

- I. JESUS' CALL TO RADICAL LOVE (Mark 9:42)
  - a. More than anything the Lord Jesus desires to see His \_\_\_\_\_ displayed in the church. (Mark 9:37; Galatians 2:20; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:17; John 13:20; Matthew 25:31-46)
  - b. This truth about how one treats a believer is how one treats the Lord Jesus is what prompted the Lord Jesus to give this \_\_\_\_\_ about causing one of these little ones who believe to stumble. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:6; Hebrews 10:24)
- II. JESUS' CALL TO RADICAL PURITY (Mark 9:43-48)
  - a. This second point, which is a call to radical \_\_\_\_\_, is closely connected to the first point. (Romans 8:12-13; Titus 2:11-12; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:11)
  - b. The mention of removing body parts that cause you to \_\_\_\_\_—hand, foot, and eye—was not literal, but was to emphasize that our battle against sin includes every area of a believer's life.
  - c. A person with only one hand, or one foot, or one eye is no less capable of sinning, because no matter what body parts are lost, sin remains in the \_\_\_\_\_. (Mark 7:20-23)

- d. Jesus mentions \_\_\_\_\_ several times in this passage, and He used the Aramaic word *Gehenna*.
- e. These words by Jesus to His disciples are the strongest call to \_\_\_\_\_ discipleship that our Lord ever gave.

- III. JESUS' CALL TO RADICAL SACRIFICE (Mark 9:49)
  - a. Jesus declares, "*For everyone will be \_\_\_\_\_ with fire.*" (Mark 9:49, NASB95) (Ezra 6:9-10; Ezekiel 43:22-24)
  - b. Both of these passages connect the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ with the Old Testament sacrifices. (Leviticus 2:13)
  - c. The \_\_\_\_\_ offering was an offering of consecration, this offering symbolized total devotion to the Lord. (Romans 12:1)
- IV. JESUS' CALL FOR RADICAL OBEDIENCE (Mark 9:50)
  - a. Jesus final call for radical discipleship is a call for radical \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. When Jesus commands His disciples to have \_\_\_\_\_ in themselves He is calling them to radical obedience in their devotion to Him.

### CONCLUSION:

Jesus knew that by calling His disciples to radical love, radical purity, radical sacrifice, and radical obedience that this would make them the radical disciples that He needed to be the radical witnesses that would change the world after Jesus' death and resurrection. This radical discipleship would unify them to lead the church and to support and encourage one another in the face of persecution that was sure to come from the religious establishment. Christians are the only true "salt of the earth." There are no other spiritual influences for modeling truth other than the lives of true disciples of Jesus Christ, and these true disciples will be known for the radical nature of their discipleship.