

**THE LITTLE ONES**  
**Mark 9:38-50**

**I. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. *“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 round his neck and he were thrown into the sea” (Mark 9:42).*
- B. It Makes a Difference!
  - 1. “We live in a permissive age in which people are quick to blame and slow to accept responsibility ... We judge most of our actions on the basis of their effect on ourselves rather than our actions’ effects on others.” (William Willimon)
  - 2. This passage is dealing with how Christians ought to treat one another. The “little ones” are the vulnerable.
- C. Two Essential Christian Ethical Insights:
  - 1. Although Jesus forgives us and loves us, he has high expectations for those of us who attempt to follow him.
  - 2. There are consequences for our behavior. We call it judgment.

**II. TAKE ACTION**

- A. *“And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go to hell...” (Mark 9:43)*
- B. Given to Hyperbole.
  - 1. Take this passage seriously, but don’t take it literally.
  - 2. Real sin comes from the heart. I believe you can get into just as much trouble with one hand as with two.
- C. Radical Surgery.
  - 1. When a gall bladder or appendix is diseased, we cut it out.
  - 2. If some habit, some action, some attitude, gets between you and God, we must “cut it out.”

**III. TAKE SIN SERIOUSLY**

- A. *“And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck 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...” (Mark 9:47)*
- B. Slogans Won’t Save Us.
  - 1. “We have actually convinced ourselves that slogans will save us. Shoot up if you must, but use a clean needle. Enjoy sex whenever and with whomever you wish, but wear a condom. No! The answer is no...” (Ted Koppel)
  - 2. “What Moses brought down from Mount Sinai were not the Ten Suggestions.”
- C. The Kingdom of God.
  - 1. *“The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field...”*
  - 2. The Kingdom of God is the treasure worth giving all to get. Whatever you miss in life, don’t miss this!!

**Prayer Concerns: Members – Patti Arnold, Burney Biesel, Sarah Clark, Mac Kerr, Anne Miller, Vicki Page, Carol Webb ...**

**Friends – Madison Brooke Binkley, Robin Brown, Jim Bufford, Bobby Byrd, Jane Davis, Kenny Frazee, Mary Ann Griffin, Nancy Gunnels, Bonnie Hart, Bennette Hobday, Jeff Joyner, Linda Lindner, Logan McAfee, Macy Morgan, Jordan Murray, Ricky Petty, Tom Sinis, Elizabeth Todd, Bobby Williams ...**

**Christian Sympathy** is extended to the *family of Joe Swafford* who died on Thursday, September 21.

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Almighty and all-loving God, we bow in humility before you. We thank you that your love is broad enough to embrace the whole world, yet personal enough to reach out to each believing soul in perfect understanding and redeeming grace.

Within the circle of that love we gather in fellowship with your people of every nation and race as members of one Holy Family. Through the symbols of our Savior's broken body and shed blood, we will all partake of your life.

Forgive our littleness of mind and selfishness of spirit which have broken the bonds of your family fellowship. Make us all truly one in Christ Jesus. Help us to love one another, as Christ has loved us. Help us also to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill His law.

Even as we come together at your table and partake of your life, make us all truly members of your present body, to be used in fulfilling your redemptive purpose in our troubled world. Gathered in our many churches, give us the joy of knowing that we are all united in one Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

**THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### MARK 9:38-50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him; for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon after to speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is for us. For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward.

"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 round his neck and he were thrown into the sea. And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 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. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck 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, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched. For every one will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

### SERMON SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

#### In the Sanctuary:

October 8	<i>The Christian View of Divorce</i>	Mark 2:2-10
October 15	<i>What Does God Want?</i>	Micah 6:6-8
	Stewardship Season Begins	
October 22	<i>It's Never Enough!</i>	Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
October 29	<i>Debt Free</i>	Psalms 116:1-14
	Youth-Led Worship	

#### On the Radio (1450 AM):

October 8	<i>I Believe in Salvation</i>	Romans 10:5-12
October 15	<i>I Believe in Preaching</i>	Romans 10:13-15
October 22	<i>I Believe in Stewardship</i>	Malachi 3:6-12
October 29	<i>I Believe in Grace</i>	Ephesians 2:1-9