

**Cross references and additional connections: Look these up!**

- ❑ “Millstone” Luke 17:1-2, Matt. 18:6-8, Rev. 18:21
- ❑ “With/Against” Matt. 12:30, Luke 9:49-50
- ❑ “Be salty” Matt. 5:13-16, Luke 14:34
- ❑ “Gouge it out!” Matt. 5:28-30, Matt. 18:8-10
- ❑ Gehenna/Molech/Child sacrifice- Lev. 18:21, 20:1-5, 2 Kings 21:1-6, Jer. 19:1-6
- ❑ “Worms” Isaiah 66:22-24
- ❑ “Fear Him” Matt. 10:26-28, Luke 1:50, Philippians 2:12-13, Psalm 2:11, 2Corinthians 5:11

**Questions for reflection:**

- ❖ In light of verses 38-39 do you think a non-believer could do mighty works in Jesus’ name?
- ❖ In verse 42 we have the phrase “If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble...” Is Jesus speaking about one of the children or about a young believer in Christ Jesus?
- ❖ In verses 43-48, Jesus is talking about physical amputation. That’s an extreme example he gives us! Have you ever confronted and fought your own sin with that level of severity?
  - How serious is sin? What is the principle that Jesus is pointing to here?
  - What are you willing to give up to seek after righteousness? What cost is too much? What was Jesus willing to give to fight sin and give righteousness?

**Looking Forward:** Exodus 5-11

# Gospel of Mark

## *Responding to the Messiah*



### Mark 9:38-50 **The Weight of Sin**

**Looking Back:** Mark 9:30-37

List a few ideas from the passage that you would like to study more...

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## Loving God with your actions

- ❑ Make a list of some of the consequences of sin that we see in the Bible (Exile of Israel, locusts, oppression, plagues, etc.)
- ❑ What are some of the consequences of sin that you have seen in your life?
- ❑ Make a list of ways Jesus rescues us from sin's consequences (freedom from guilt/shame, adoption as His children, etc.)
- ❑ Take a few minutes and write out a psalm or letter of thanks and praise to God for the rescue that we have in Jesus.
- ❑ Read 1 Cor. 2:14-17. How can you be the "fragrance" of Christ? How can you "speak in Christ" to those around you?

## Loving God with your heart

- ❑ It's easy to see people who aren't doing things the way you believe to be most effective and feel as if they need to change. (This can be with your kids, spouse, co-workers, etc.) As you go through the next few weeks, take care that before "correcting" the way another does something, examine whether or not you *should* attempt to alter the way they operate. Will you causing them to change actually help anyone or is it only a hindrance to your relationship?
- ❑ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. In fearing the Lord, one is given the need to follow His commands. This fear should cause us to fight our sin. Look honestly at your heart. Examine your heart and look honestly at the "secret" sins in your life, and commit to fight to put that to death with everything you have.
- ❑ There are many things that distract us from God. These may be good things (work, school, exercise); however, if they are valued above God - whether in action or in thought - they've

got to go. What is keeping you from having a correct relationship with God? Get rid of it.

## Loving God with your mind

- The idea of fearing the Lord is not something we talk much about, but it is widely spoken on in the scriptures, and so we should examine. We understand, though, that, "Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7

### *Want to look deeper?*

- ❖ There is no neutrality in the Kingdom. Everyone is either in Adam, or in Christ. Jesus says "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters." Matthew 12:30
- ❖ Here's how bad sin really is: Genesis 3, Deuteronomy 28:15-68
- ❖ How great our Savior is: Titus 3:3-7, Romans 5, 1 Peter 1:3-9