

Mark 9

I. On the Mountaintop: Jesus Revealed

1 And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the **kingdom of God present with power.**"

- Some standing here will see the **Kingdom of God...**
 1. Before you die
 2. On earth
 3. With Power: dü'-nä-mēs Dynamite
- **Kingdom of God here:** Spiritual dimension breaking into the physical!

2 Now after six days Jesus took **Peter, James, and John**, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.

- 6 Days
- **Inner Circle:** Peter, James and John on high mountain with Jesus **by themselves**

Most people assume that Jesus took these three aside on this and other occasions because they were special favorites of the Lord. It could have also been because they were the three most likely to get into trouble, so He kept them close so He could keep a close eye on them.
D Guzik

- **King of Glory**
- **Transfigured:** Change on the outside that comes from the inside
 1. **Clothes became shining...**whiter than whitest white
 - Light came from within Jesus
 2. **Matthew:** Face shone like the sun

1 John 1:5 ...God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Psalms 139:11 [He is our light] If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me, "Even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

Revelation 21:23 [He will be our Light forever] The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

3. **Luke:** As He prayed the "appearance of His face was altered"

"For Christ to be glorious was almost a less matter than for him to restrain or hide his glory. It is forever his glory that he concealed his glory; and that, though he was rich, for our sakes he became poor." (Spurgeon)

4 And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

- **Moses and Elijah:** Representatives of the Law and the Prophets; sum of the OT
- **2 Witnesses?**

Revelation 11:3 ...I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

- **Talking with Jesus:** Luke 9:30-31

NKJV ...And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of **His decease** which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

NIV...They spoke about **his departure**, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. [Death, Resurrection and Assentation]

Luke 9:32 But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.

5 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"— 6 because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid.

- **Peter knew who they were:** We will know each other in heaven:
- **Three temporary shelters:** Jesus, Moses and Elijah
- **You are all great men of God? All Spiritual Guys...**

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." CS Lewis

- Peter always the spokesman...If you don't know what to say...say nothing!

Proverbs 17:28 Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.

- “Good for us to be here” Once again Peter wants to Jesus to bypass the cross

7 And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” 8 Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but **only Jesus** with themselves.

- Cloud overshadowed them: **Shekinah Glory**: Kingdom of God present with power!
 1. With Israel in wilderness
 2. Cloud God spoke from
 3. Appeared to Solomon at dedication of temple
 4. Filled temple in Ezekiel
 5. Overshadowed Mary at Jesus birth
 6. Will be visible at Jesus 2nd coming...

Luke 21:27 ...they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

- **Testimony of the Father**: This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!
- Listen to no one but Jesus

"There are thousands of priests in the world who say, 'Hear us'; but the Father says 'Hear Him.' Many voices clamor for our attention: new philosophies, modern theologies, and old heresies revived, all call to us and entreat us to hearken, but the Father says, 'Hear him.'" (Spurgeon)

- **Beloved Son of God/God the Son**: Confirmation of Peters precious confession

9 Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant.

- Kept what they saw to themselves until resurrection...Wow!

2 Peter 1:16 ... we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were **eyewitnesses of His majesty**. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

- What does rising from the dead mean? It is because we brought no bread?

II. Elijah Must Come First

11 And they asked Him, saying, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

- On the way down the hill; Guys want an Eschatological bible study

- Eschatology [Study of end times] concerning the coming of the Messiah

“We know from Scripture Elijah comes before the Messiah and if You are the Messiah...then where did Elijah go?”

12 Then He answered and told them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things. And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt? 13 But I say to you that Elijah has also come, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him.”

1. Elijah **will come** and restore all things
2. It is also written that Messiah is here and will suffer/be treated w/contempt
3. Elijah **has already come** already and they did what they wished to him

- **Elijah:** Prophet 900 BC; “My God is Yahweh”

1. Widow of Zarephath
2. Challenge to Baal
3. Conflict with Ahab and Jezebel
4. Stopped the rain
5. God spoke in “still small voice”
6. Chariot of Fire
7. Never died

- Jesus: Elijah WILL COME and Elijah has ALREADY COME:
- “Elijah” comes back before the first and second coming of the Lord

Matthew 11:7 [Read] As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. 9 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. 10 For this is he of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.’ [Mal 3:1] 11 “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. 14 And **if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.** 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

First Coming John the Baptist comes in the Spirit of Elijah [not Elijah John 1:21]

Luke 1:17 [John] will also go before [Jesus] in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” [Call to repentance]

Acts 19:4 “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.”

- **Elijah of the 1st Coming Ushers in:**
 1. Age of God's Grace
 2. The One is "**Grace and Truth**" and "Lamb takes away sin of the world"
- "If you are able to receive this "Elijah" you will be saved...otherwise

Second Coming Elijah comes back:

1. **Church is raptured** [Those who listen to John's message at 1st coming [Repent]
2. **Tribulation begins:** All hell breaks loose on earth, lawlessness
3. **2 Witnesses testify** God's judgment is coming, 1st 1.5 of trib., begin sorrows
 - a) Elijah is one witness for sure

Malachi 4:5 [Scripture the boys remembered] Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.⁶ And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

Revelation 11:10...two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. [Make feel guilty and fire come from mouth of anyone talked back]

1 Kings 18:21 "If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal [AC], follow him."

- **Elijah back to usher in the 2nd coming of Christ...this time for judgment:**

Revelation 1:13 [Jesus full revealed]...and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

- Receive the message of Elijah at Jesus 1st coming: Embrace the Lamb/Suffer the Lion

SUMMARY: On the Mountaintop: Boys get a glimpse of King of Glory. Allowed to approach the unapproachable:

SUMMARY: Back to Start; Eternal Gain vs. Temporal Gain

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Self; Eternal or Temporal? Why do we get up in the morning?

Psalms 90:9 ...all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh.¹⁰ The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.¹¹ Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.¹² So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom... 15 Make us glad according to

the days in which You have afflicted us, The years in which we have seen evil.¹⁶ Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory to their children.¹⁷ And **let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us**, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.

1 Timothy 6: 6 [Read] Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- Living a Godly and Thankful life is contentment; food and clothing
- **Desiring to be Rich** [not rich] **Temporal**
 1. Fall into temptation: Forsake God
 2. Caught in snare: Cant get out/ Stuck [Deception of riches]
 3. Foolish lusts: Leave us empty [only so many times you can...]
 4. Drowns men in destruction/perdition [Downward spiral into spiritual ruin]
 5. Root of all kinds of evil
 6. Stray from faith
 7. Pierced with sorrow:

- **Desiring to be Godly: Eternal**

11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, **lay hold on eternal life**, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives **life to all things**, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, 15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, **whom no man has seen or can see**, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

- Boys get a glimpse of King of Glory. For a few minutes approach the unapproachable

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that **when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

Don't forsake Eternal Life for passing pleasures of sin...look to the Reward

- Moses kept his **eye on the prize** knowing it was all worth it to be with God

Hebrews 11: 24 [Moses] refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. [Eternity with the Lord;]

Enter in to the joy of your Master

1 Timothy 6:15 [Jesus] who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

- Peter speaks...Lets stay here? From **Shekinah Glory God speaks...**

"This is My Beloved Son...Listen to Him

III. In the Valley

- On the way down from Mountaintop experience...where life happens

14 And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and **scribes disputing with them.** 15 Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. 16 And He asked the scribes, **"What are you discussing with them?"**

- Scribes disputing with His disciples? **What are you discussing with My people?**

Jesus the Shepherd:

- A shepherd's primary responsibility is the **safety and welfare of the flock**

Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my Shepherd...Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. [Keep away predators that would hurt flock]

Jeremiah 3:14b I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. 15 And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. [Feeds flock with good food warns them about what is harmful if eaten]

Ezekiel 34:11 "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. [Brings them back from wandering off]

John 10:7 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

John 10:1 [Jesus the True Shepherd] "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

- To protect the sheep under his care, a shepherd may use guard dogs or other guard animals.
- **Beware of the leaven...**False teaching about Jesus

“What are you discussing with them?”

17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

“Teacher, I brought You my son”

- **Demon Possessed:**

1. Mute and Deaf [later]
2. Seized [taken hold of]
3. Throws him down
4. My son foams at the mouth
5. Gnashes his teeth
6. Becomes rigid [Like dead]

- Teacher...I brought You my son. Disciples could not

19 He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.”

- **Faithless:**

1. Father using Teacher?
2. Disciples who failed
3. Scribes who were mocking failure of disciples but also could do nothing

20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

- Demon saw Jesus: Knows end is near trying to cause as much harm as possible

1. Convulsed boy
2. Through him to the ground
3. Wallowed: Floundered on the ground
4. Foamed at the mouth

21 So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. 22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

- From Childhood: His little boy

1. Thrown into fire

2. Thrown into water

- Suicidal for years; father in anguish for years

**“But if You can do anything,
have compassion on us and help us.”**

- Have compassion **on US...help US**

23 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

- **Juxtaposition:** Placing side by side for comparison
 1. If you can to anything ...have compassion and help us
 2. If you can believe ALL things are possible

“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

- He did believe a little as he took the boy to Jesus...he greater faith and knew it!

"Help my unbelief" is something a man can only say by faith. "While men have no faith, they are unconscious of their unbelief; but, as soon as they get a little faith, then they begin to be conscious of the greatness of their unbelief." (Spurgeon)

- Honesty is what the Lord is looking for in our communication with Him

Psalms 51:6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts

- Property needed to be sold...I do want to take advantage of her...sky burst open
- Lord I don't believe You completely. Help my unbelief! Done!
- Sky burst open and heaven came down

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!”²⁶ Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.”²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

- People running toward the scene
- Rebuked the demon not the boy: To chop...chop chop. Destroy the work of Satan
 1. Come out and don't go back in
 2. One more act of rebellion: Convulsed the boy
 3. By looked dead...stiff like before...people thought he was dead

Jesus took him by the hand and Lifted him up, and he arose.

28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" 29 So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

It isn't that prayer and fasting make us more "worthy" to cast out demons; it is that prayer and fasting draw us closer to the heart of God, and they put us more in line with His power. They are an expression of our total dependence on Him...This total dependence on God is the remedy for many spiritual problems. To be disappointed in yourself is to have trusted in yourself. [D Guzik]

- This "**kind**" can only be overcome by fasting and prayer [Jesus on mountain]
- Both fallen and un-fallen angels have different degrees of strength/influence
- **Revelation:** Mighty Angels; 4 Angels [Living Creatures] around throne

Ephesians 6:12 ...we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. [Jesus is bigger...my dad is stronger]

SUMMARY: In the Valley: Everyday life; pain and hurt. Jesus is God when we are on the Mountain and in the Valleys of life.

IV. Who is the Greatest?

30 Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. 31 For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day." 32 But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.

- Away for intimate teaching: Betrayed, killed, rise on third day
 1. Didn't understand
 2. Afraid to ask

33 Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" 34 But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.

- Walked from Galilee to headquarters in Capernaum toward Jerusalem [Death]
- Loud conversation/arguing: What were you talking about?
- No answer. Embarrassed....

Disputed among themselves who would be the greatest?

- Who would sit at the right hand of the King. Who would be King after Jesus died?
- Busted!

35 And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

- Sat down [Position of Rabbi]
- Called the 12....taught them about Backward world...elevator
- Do you desire to be first? Be great in eyes of God? Respected by men?
 1. Last of all
 2. Servant of all
 3. This was Jesus...He was the greatest and came as a servant!

Matthew 20:25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

36 Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, 37 "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."

- We do for others so we can get:
 1. Notoriety
 2. Reputation
 3. Monetary gain

Ecclesiastes 4:4 ...I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

- **Example of a child:** Whoever receives one of these; i.e. does good to one of these:
 1. Property/Seen not Heard
 2. Nothing to repay you with
 3. Cannot do anything for you
 - 4. Giving expecting nothing in return:**

Luke 6:33 ...if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

Luke 6:34 ... if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.

Matthew 6:2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before

you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

Matthew 6:4 [Let] your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

- **Our motive for service is God's Glory**...not our own

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your **conduct honorable among the Gentiles**, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, **glorify God in the day of visitation.**

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and **glorify your Father in heaven.**

SUMMARY: Who is the Greatest? Jesus...Servant

V. What About Them Lord?

38 Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us."

- **John:** Gospel of John, 1,2,3 John and Revelation
 1. Son of Thunder w/brother James: Shall we call down fire?
 2. Apostle of Love
 3. Testifier of Deity of Jesus
 4. **Denouncer of false doctrines/teachings**

"We saw someone who is not in our group casting out demons in Your Name.
We told him to stop because he does not follow US."

- Casting out demons in Name of Jesus but not in our group?
- He casts out demons but John's group could not? Envy?
- When do we intervene and when do we not intervene?

39 But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. 40 For he who is not against us is on our side."

- Do not forbid this guy because [qualifications for not intervening]
 1. Miracle "in My Name"
 2. Speaks good of Me
 - Will not soon speak evil of Me

- Those influenced will be influenced for the good

3. Not against us but on our side [how do we know?]

41 For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

4. He is serving in My Name

- Loving God and Neighbor... maybe not just like you
- No false doctrine just a different ministry than you are used to
- May be weird but he will not lose his reward

"This one casting out demons in My Name is not stumbling/preventing people from coming to Me. Let him alone and do not stop him"

42 **"But** whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.

- Jesus taking child in His arms:
- **Little ones who believe in Me:** New Believer
- If through **Word** or **Deed** cause new believer to "trip up" :

"Better to dragged to bottom of the sea with rock around their neck"

Stumble? Walking with the Lord and filled Joy, Excitement and because of your Words/Actions they...

- Lose Faith
- Doubt Gods Goodness
- Doubt Gods Power
- Doubt God's Word
- Fall into sin

God Loves His New Kids!

- Heaven rejoices in presence of the angels when one is born again!
- Serious consequences for messing with them: Don't do it!

1. Stumbling by False Teaching:

- Deity of Christ
- Virgin Birth,
- Salvation by Grace alone
- Trinity

Matthew 18:7 "Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!"

[Don't mess with what God is doing]

2. Stumbling with Words:

- Gossip
- Slander
- Disputes

Some Christians think nothing of drawing young, weak Christians into their own little squabbles and divisions. They themselves emerge without much damage, but the little ones they brought with them into the squabble often end up shipwrecked. [Guzic]

Matthew 12:36 ...I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." ...38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." ????????

3. Stumbling by Condemnation/Legalism

Acts 15:10 ... why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are."

4. Stumbling by Hypocrisy

- Sinning outright
- Abusing Grace: Freedom you have but others may not...

1 Corinthians 8:13 ...if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble. [Drinking, smoking, movies, etc.] [Love/heart issue. Do you love enough to stop?]

1. Jesus recalling incident of scribes messing w/ disciples?
2. Rebuking John for quenching the young believer's zeal?
- 3. Warning for ALL:** Seriousness of Sin: Millstone

43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— 44 where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— 46 where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' 47 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, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— 48 where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.'

**We are all preaching to others with our lives.
Do our lives lead people to the kingdom of heaven or the pit of hell?**

- **Hand:** What you do in front of others. How you spend your time
- **Foot:** Places you go. Direction of your life
- **Eye:** What you look at. What you seek

Better to enter heaven missing these than go whole into hell. Repent

Seriousness of sin and being the cause others to sin: Repent or...

1. Cast into hell
2. Fire that shall never be quenched
3. Worm does not die [souls regret] [Isaiah 66:24]
4. Fire is not quenched

"Where there is eternity of extremity. Of all outward torments none is more insufferable than that by fire; as of all inward, none like that of having worms ever grubbing and gnawing upon the entrails." [Trapp]

- Hell is eternal/forever
- Annihilation is a false-hope
- Begs the question "If after death annihilation, why the strong warning?"

Revelation 20:13 ...the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

**We are all preaching with our lives.
Do our lives lead people to the kingdom of heaven or the pit of hell?**

Matthew 23:15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

49 "For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt.

- **Salt and Fire:** Purifying work of the Holy Spirit
 1. **Fire:** Purifies burning away impurities
 2. **Salt:** Purifies by Penetration/burns out corruption/stops spread of corruption

50 Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have **peace with one another.**"

- God's desire for His mankind is not hell ...but peace with God and man
- God's desire is that all are saved and allow His Holy Spirit to work in/through us
- God's desire is that believers have peace with one another...

Ephesians 4:2 ...with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, [bear] with one

another in love, 3 [endeavor] to keep the **unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

- Hell is not a place created for man but it will be the eternal abode of most

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels

SUMMARY: Sin is so serious that God sent His only begotten Son to die for us, forgive us of our sin, keep us from hell, and allow us to be with Him in Glory forever.