

Small Group Notes

Sermon: 06/12/20



Simply Jesus: A place of darkness, a kingdom of light

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Scripture

Mark 9:42-50

Overview

Jesus' teaching was often challenging and direct, and this passage is such an example. Jesus takes this opportunity whilst talking with his disciples to teach them about the severity of sin. He shows that all sin is against God and worthy of punishment.

Jesus teaches that holding on to a sinful way of life is a choice to reject God and thus be destined for hell – a very real place and a very real horror. Jesus is also showing that a choice to count the cost, rid yourself of a sinful way of life and follow Jesus is the way to being a part of the kingdom of God.

Jesus teaches that being a follower means remaining 'salty' – keeping your eyes fixed on Him and drawing on His strength, not your own, to resist temptation and continue to repent of sin your life, knowing He is always just to forgive. Jesus also teaches about staying in community – that relationship and accountability through Christian friendships, small groups and church life is a gift His given us to stay close to God and be a Christ-like people.

Questions

1. What is your usual reaction to the topic of hell? What thoughts/images/ideas come to mind?
2. As true believers, how do we have a right perspective on the reality of hell and heed Jesus' warning here, whilst not fearing that it could be our eternal destination?
3. Can you think of an example of when you've had to 'cut off' an area of your life as it was hindering your following Jesus? How did God strengthen you to do so, and what has been the reward since?
4. How does Christian community help us 'stay salty' and stay focused on following Jesus through temptations, sin and trials in our lives? Share any examples you have.