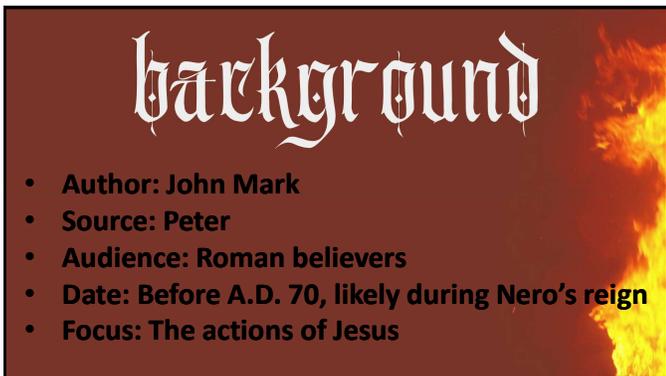




1



2



3

background

Key Themes:

- Jesus is authority
- Jesus is servant
- Jesus is the suffering Messiah
- There is a cost to following Jesus

4

truths

- Activity for God is no substitute for intimacy with God.
- Loyalty to Christ > loyalty to a group

5

MEMORY VERSE

MARK 9:35B
If anyone wants to be first, he must be last and servant of all.

6

REVIEW VERSE

MARK 7:15

Nothing that goes into a person from outside can defile him but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.

7

Mark 9:42-50

“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to fall away —it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. 43 “And if your hand causes you to fall away, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and go to hell, the unquenchable fire.

8

Mark 9:42-50

5 And if your foot causes you to fall away, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. 47 And if your eye causes you to fall away, gouge it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, 48 where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

9

Mark 9:42-50

49 For everyone will be salted with fire. 50 Salt is good, but if the salt should lose its flavor, how can you season it? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”



10



11

context

Peter's confession (8:29)

- The first passion prediction (8:31)
- Teaching on the cost of discipleship (8:34–38)
- The Transfiguration (9:2–8)
- The second passion prediction (9:30–32)
- The disciples' argument over greatness (9:33–37)

12

context

Immediate Context (Mark 9:33–41)

- Disciples arguing about who is greatest
- Jesus redefines greatness:
- Concerned for others
- The pursuit of holiness
- Faithfulness

13

Casual Christianity Endangers Others
Mark 9:42 - The Warning
“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin...”

- “Little ones” = humble believers, not merely children
- “Fall away” Skandalizō = to trip, entrap, or spiritually derail

14

Casual Christianity Endangers Others
Mark 9:42 - The Warning
“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin...”

- Millstone imagery = irreversible judgment

15

**Casual Christianity Endangers Others
Mark 9:42 - The Warning**

“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin...”

Jesus begins outside ourselves—how our lives affect others.



16



There is no such thing as a private sin. Every sin has a victim, and often that victim is someone weaker in faith.

R.C. SPROUL

17



You don't have to teach heresy to destroy faith—sometimes you just have to live carelessly.

18

application

**If someone followed Jesus
the way I do, would they be
drawn closer to Christ?**

19



**Who might stumble
because I refuse to be
serious about sin?**

20



**“What we
excuse today,
someone else
will embrace
tomorrow.”**

TONY MERIDA

21

Casual Christianity Excuses Personal Sin
Mark 9:43-48

"If your hand causes you to sin..."

- Jesus uses hyperbole to emphasize urgency, not mutilation
- Hand, foot, eye = actions, direction, desires
- "Better than" comparisons force eternal valuation

22

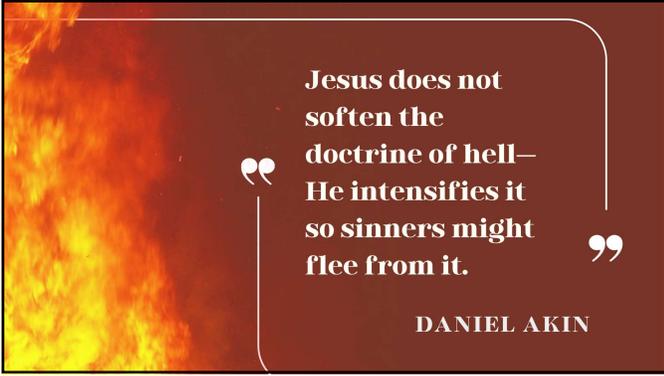


23

Casual Christianity Excuses Personal Sin
Hell & Eternity

- Jesus quotes Isaiah 66:24
- Fire = judgment
- Worm = decay
- Both = unending

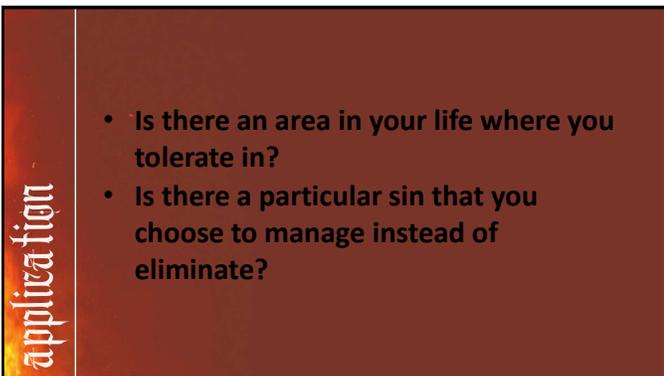
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25



26



27

Casual Christianity Undermines True Holiness
Mark 9:49–50

“Everyone will be salted with fire...”

Exegetical Insight

- Salt = covenant faithfulness
- Fire = purification, testing
- Rooted in Leviticus 2:13



28

Casual Christianity Undermines True Holiness
Mark 9:49–50

Discipleship involves refining—not coasting.



29



**God uses heat
to purify what
He intends to
preserve.**

CHIP INGRAM

30

Casual Christianity Undermines True Holiness
Mark 9:49–50

Salt Losing Its Saltiness

Compromised disciples lose:

- **Distinctiveness**
- **Influence**
- **Witness**



31

A quote by Voddie Baucham set against a background of fire. The text is white on a dark red background. The quote is enclosed in a white-bordered box with a curved top right corner. The author's name is centered below the quote.

“A church that looks like the world will never change the world.”
VODDIE BAUCHAM

32

A quote about holiness set against a background of fire. The text is white on a black background. The quote is enclosed in a white-bordered box with a curved top right corner. The author's name is centered below the quote.

Holiness isn't extremism—it's evidence of transformation.

33

application

- Submit willingly to God’s refining work rather than resisting it.
- In what ways has my desire to fit in slowly replace my calling to stand apart?

34

takeaways

Refuse to live in such a way that normalizes a sin or weakness in another’s faith.

What am I still tolerating that Jesus says will be better to lose than to keep?

35
