

The Demanding Requirements of Discipleship (Mark 9:42-50)

- In Mark 9 33-41 Jesus taught his disciples about the right attitude in ministry
- He spoke to them about the importance of a servant attitude (vv35-37)
- They were to imitate their Master, ministering with a tolerant attitude (vv38-41)
- The disciples discovered the most important focus for ministry is Christ's glory
- It mattered not who was ministering, only that they loved the Lord, serving him

I. People of Integrity in Ministry (9:42)

- Jesus teaching his disciples galvanized their attention with a fearful statement
- Jesus points it was better to be drowned than to cause a child of God to stumble
- Teaching false doctrine or advocating error will bring God's severe judgment
- Christians must take care not to cause fellow believers to stumble in any way

II. A Life of Holiness (9:43-48)

- Jesus put the need for holiness in dramatic terms: cut off a hand or gouge an eye
- Jesus is calling for the spiritual mortification, the getting rid of sinful practices
- The eye, hand, foot, encompass life in total, what we see, do & where we go
- Either we will be killing sin or sin will be killing us & dragging us to hell
- Only God's grace, Christ's blood & the Holy Spirit's word enable us to do this
- We are responsible not to cause others to stumble & also to guard ourselves

III. Enduring Suffering (9:49)

- Note Jesus' enigmatic statement: "everyone will be salted with fire" (vs.49)
- Key to understanding this is understanding Old Testament sacrifices (Lev 2:13)
- Sacrifices had to be accompanied with salt. Salt speaks of sacrifice (Ex 30:35)
- The thought here, is that everyone who follows Christ is to be a willing sacrifice
- Paul exhorts Roman believers to present their bodies to God as willing sacrifices
- Along with the salt comes fire which symbolizes persecution (2 Tim 3:12)

IV. Living as Salt (9:50)

- The disciples to be salt meant they were to be a preserving influence in the world
- This is our call, we are meant to have a cleansing effect on society in general
- To quicken the conscience, elevate the conversation restrain ethical corruption etc.
- Despite our failings, Christ desires us to have healing influence on society (Matt 5:13)