

Jesus Warns Against Sectarianism **Matthew 18:6-14; Mark 9:38-50; Luke 9:49-50**

Sectarianism Defined –

We are studying Jesus' teaching session with His disciples after their return to Capernaum. They had asked Jesus about greatest within the kingdom, but He knew their hearts and dealt with their desire for position, prestige, and power. He told them that _____ was true greatest to God. It is during this time of instruction that _____ tells Jesus of a recent event and how they handled it. This prompts Jesus to continue His discourse and point out that their _____ and actions directly conflicted with God's heart!

I. Reaction to Believing Outsider

“And John answered him, saying, Master (Lit. - _____), we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he _____ not us: and we forbad him, because he _____ not (“with” Luke 9:49) us. ³⁹ But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my _____, that can lightly speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ For he that is not against us is (“for us” Luke 9:50) on our part. ⁴¹For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my _____, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.” Mark 9:38-41

“we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him” –

“Forbid him not” –

- “can lightly speak evil of me” –

- “For he that is not against us is on our part” –

“whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward” –

II. Offending Believing “little ones”

A. Radical Attitude toward Offending “little ones”

“And whosoever shall _____ one of these _____ that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the (“drowned in the depth” Matthew 18:6) of the sea. (“Woe unto the world because of _____! for it must needs be that _____ come; but woe to that man by whom the _____ cometh!” Matthew 18:7)”
Mark 9:42

“offend one of these little ones that believe in me” –

“it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck” –

“Woe unto the world”/“woe to that man” –

“And if thy hand _____ thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life (Lit. - _____) maimed, than having two hands to go into hell (Gk - _____), into the fire that never shall be quenched: ⁴⁴ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. ⁴⁵ And if thy foot _____ thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: ⁴⁶ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. ⁴⁷ And if thine eye _____ thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the _____ of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: ⁴⁸ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” Mark 9:42-48

“cut it off”/“pluck it out” –

Eternal life –

B. Right Reaction to Believing “little ones”

“For everyone shall be _____ with fire, and every sacrifice shall be _____ with _____.
50 _____ is good: but if the _____ have lost his _____, wherewith will ye season it?
Have _____ in yourselves, and have _____ one with another.” Mark 9:49-50

III. Value of Believing “little ones”

“Take heed that ye _____ not one of these _____; for I say unto you,
That in heaven their _____ do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.”
Matthew 18:10

“For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. ¹² How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and _____ of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? ¹³ And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. ¹⁴ Even so it is not the _____ of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these _____ should perish.”
Matthew 18:11-14

Believers' Application:

1. Let's do further reading about a superior, sectarian attitude like that found in the disciples that Jesus condemned in our current study. The Epistles are full of discussions on unity and love, the very things the disciples lacked! Also, an interesting Old Testament passage is added. Notice Moses and Joshua's attitude. How are you doing in relation to these attitudes?

Numbers 11:24-29 –

From this passage, we learn:

Romans 14:1-4, 13, 19—

From this passage, we learn:

Romans 15:1-7—

From this passage, we learn:

1 Cor. 12:1-27 –

From this passage, we learn:

Phil. 1:12-18 –

From this passage, we learn:

1 John 3:7-10 –

From this passage, we learn:

1 John 4:1-5:1; 2 John 7-11 –

From this passage, we learn:

2. Let's live this attitude out...