Jesus Lectures On Hell
Mark 9:38-48

This passage too, starts out as a conversation. John the disciple had seen someone casting out a demon. Demon possession was common in Jesus’ day. I think satan had sent as many demons as possible to try to keep people from following Christ. You see, someone cannot be saved & receive the Spirit of God while possessed by an evil demon, who is against God.

But John, who thought you had to be an official apostle to cast out a demon has asked to see his union card & ordination certificate & told him to stop. Jesus in vs 39, countermands what John said by saying that if the man really had cast out a demon in Jesus’ name, that meant that the man was on God’s side. And Jesus says in vs 40 “he that is not against us is for us”.

In vs 41, Jesus says that even those who do simple things, trying to do good because they love God shall one day be rewarded if they’re saved. He’s saying that if God’s going to reward someone who gives a preacher a cup of water, then surely God will reward one who tries to minister by casting out demons.

In vs 42, Jesus warns us against criticizing those serving the Lord, albeit perhaps without knowing as much about the Scriptures as us. I’m thankful for each member & attender at HBC. That doesn’t mean I don’t want you to grow spiritually but you are God’s servants, not mine. I’m thankful for you.
In vs 43, Jesus takes the conversation to a much more serious level & isn’t talking to the unsaved or to the crowds but to the casual Christian who either thinks too highly of themselves or perhaps doesn’t take their spiritual life seriously.

You see, Jesus never told John to tell the guy to stop casting out demons. Jesus never put John in charge of the ministry approval program. But John, yes, even John the beloved disciple, had an attitude. And Jesus knows that when Christians have wrong attitudes, that people end up going to hell.

The hand, foot or the eye represent any instrument by which sin may be committed. It represents any habit, any person, any pleasantry or Christian liberty that causes you or anyone else to stumble. It can be sins of commission (things you do but shouldn’t) or sins of omission (thing you should do but don’t).

And so Jesus is asking His disciples, of which I hope you count yourselves today, are you willing to deal with those sins or areas of your Christian walk where your lack of obedience are causing problems?

I know your sins but when will you repent before the church & gain victory? I know your children are straying from the Lord but are you humbly at the alter pleading to God on their behalf? I know you have unanswered prayers but are you living a life of loving obedience to God? I know you’ve been hurt but have you given your bitterness over to Jesus? Souls hang in the balance of your decision today.
What Jesus Said About Hell

Jesus warned of hell far more than He spoke of heaven but most Christians today have lost their compassion on those around them who are heading to that awful place of eternal torment.

He compared hell to Gehenna - East of Jerusalem lay the valley of Hinnom, in Greek...*Gehenna*, translated here as “*hell*”. Jesus used Gehenna to help us visualize hell. It was the dump of Jerusalem, the receptacle of everything vile, filthy & rotten. To help with the stench, it was constantly burning but piles of human waste, dead animal carcasses, layers of garbage & the bodies of executed criminals meant that it never went out.

He declared hell is a fiery place - Hell is a place of fire & smoke. In *Luke 15:24*, the rich man tells us that. It is located in the center of the earth, called by the Bible the pit in the deep parts under the earth. The heat is unbearable, thirst unquenchable but there is no relief nor mercy. In *Matt. 25:41*, Jesus says it wasn’t made for us but that the unsaved are condemned to it.

He stated the body is not consumed - Using Gehenna again, where worms thrived in the putrid rotten flesh, but when the bodies were burnt, the worms died but Jesus says that in hell, the flesh is not consumed & the worm dieth not.

He warned that hell is for eternity - The fire will never be put out in hell, there will never be an end to it, & once someone is there, there is no hope, no mercy, no forgiveness, but eternity in torment.
Some Lessons To Learn

Not Everyone Is Against Us - Just like the unofficial disciple that was casting out demons, there are many today who see evil for what it is & they don’t have to be an independent Baptist to be on God’s side. Jesus warns of having an exclusive spirit, where you think no one is as right with God as you. Denominational lines are not what they used to be & we’d be wise to be thankful of all those who still wage war against evil.

But He That Is Not With Me Is Against Me - Though not quoted by Mark, Matt. 12:30 has Jesus also saying the opposite “He that is not with Me is against Me”. As with much of what Jesus taught, there is an inward view & an outward view. While we should judge others with graciousness as we cannot see their heart, we should hold ourselves to a much higher standard.

One time Peter asked what John was up to, & Jesus told Peter to worry about himself. For all we know, the person who we think is not serving God as well as we are, or goes about it a different way is actually doing more with what the Lord has given them than us. It is less about whether others are obeying the Lord in all things & more about whether you are!

Take Hell & Spiritual Things Seriously - Hell is real & already filling up. Cain has been there for 6,000 yrs. Your co-workers, neighbors, friends & loved ones are watching you, listening to you, & deciding if the Bible is true. And they are basing their decision on whether you live like it is.