<u>Does Jesus want me to actually cut out my eye?</u>

<u>The real danger of hell and the choice we must make.</u>

Jesus is waking them up.

Not only 1st and 2nd coming

Reality of the cross. Sin/salvation issue

The reality of the eternal choice between sin and God

M33 – 9:43-50

First time? Sub, playlist

43 "If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, [44 where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.]
45 "If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than, having your two feet, to be cast into hell,
[46 where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.]
47 "If your eye causes you to stumble, throw it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell,
48 where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

- Am I really supposed to cut off body parts?
  - Pro
    - 1 Literal reading
    - 2 Some later people did it
      - <u>Perhaps</u> Origen
  - Con
    - Jesus' other extreme statements
      - "hate your father and mother"
      - "take up your cross"
      - "eat my flesh and drink my blood"
        - "the flesh profits nothing" "my words are spirit"
    - Literal does not = right
      - It usually is.
      - Key – as intended
      - If the literal reading makes sense, seek no other reading.
      - ***2 Cor 16:9 "eyes of the Lord run to and fro"***
      - ***Matthew 6:3 (NASB95) 3 "But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,***
        - Hands don't know anything.
          - They didn't think so either
    - We don't see it practiced or taught in the NT
      - Surely we would see it ALL OVER
    - It's obvious that it doesn't work literally.
      - One eye, one hand, one foot.
      - What I can do with my right hand I can do with my left
      - Does nothing to stop my sin!
    - We would all be blind and limbless…
      - And still sinning
      - And what about your brain causing you to sin?
    - Used metaphorically already
      - "Lord is at my right hand"
    - ***Colossians 3:5–6 (NASB95) 5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead*** [lit. put to death your earthly members] ***to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,***
      - ***Romans 8:13 (NASB95) 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are <u>putting to death the deeds of the body</u>, you will live.***
    - It's used poetically in the OT

- ***Proverbs 6:16–19 (NASB95) [16]There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: [17]Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, [18]A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, [19]A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.***
    - It merely represents the sin, it isn't the physical cause
- Your hand – what you do
    - Psalm 31:15 (NASB95) [15]My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me.
        - Enemies only have one hand?
            - Its "what my enemies will do to me"
            - Mentioning one highlights the symbolic nature
- Your foot – where you go/but more
    - Of sinners - **Proverbs 1:15–16 (NASB95) [15]My son, do not walk in the way with them. Keep your feet from their path, [16]For their feet run to evil And they hasten to shed blood.**
        - Agendas and plans
        - Scams, underpaying your employees, plots to defraud,
- Your eye – what you view/desire
    - ***1 Jn 2:16 "lust of the eyes"***
    - ***Job 31:1 (NASB95) [1]"I have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin?***
        - Never before has this been such an easy sin
        - Time to make a covenant
- "cut off" – "throw it out" (eye)
    - Abstinence not moderation
    - Activity, Hobby, plan, plot, lifestyle
        - Lust and desire
    - I was thinking of giving a bunch of examples…
        - But. You know
            - Pray
    - Like severing a body part
    - At its core
    - Example?
        - ***Luke 18:24 (NASB95) [24]And Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!***
        - ***Matthew 19:21 (NASB95) [21]Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."***
- The call to stop sin applies to BOTH believers and non-believers
    - This seems to be a salvation issue
    - Hell
- The things that are incompatible with following Jesus
    - You feel it
        - "then I have to"
    - Repent
        - Culture doesn't like it.
            - They never will.
                - Unrepentant
        - But it's important.
            - Not earning
                - ***Ephesians 2:8–9 (NASB95) [8]For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; [9]not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.***
            - Turning to God is turning FROM something.
                - Sin.
        - It may feel like "my life is yours"
    - Whatever it is…
        - It's not worth it.
- Hell
    - Different words are used

- Gehenna
  - Some say "it's just a valley in southern Jerusalem"
    - Ge Hinnom
    - Jeremiah and Isaiah speak of it
      - Isaiah 66:24
    - Many Jews offered their children there of false gods
- Against
  - Intertestamental literature
    - *Judith 16:17 (NRSV) [17]Woe to the nations that rise up against my people! The Lord Almighty will take vengeance on them in the day of judgment; <u>he will send fire and worms into their flesh; they shall weep in pain forever.</u>*
    - I want more
  - ***Matthew 10:28 (NASB95) [28]"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.***
    - Something humans can't do.
      - Humans **<u>can</u>** throw you into a trash heap and burn you
      - Only God can do this

- Descriptions
  - "go to hell" "thrown into hell"
  - Unquenchable fire
  - Worm does not die and the fire is not quenched
    - Aside: variants – vs [44], [45], 48
    - Good example – viable, meaningful… nothing to worry about
  - Worms and fire don't go well together
    - The fire OR the worms MUST be different than what we know. Or both.
    - Point – unending or permanent or complete

- Application
  - Extreme
    - Turn from sin… or hell.
    - "repent and believe"
  - "I don't like fire and brimstone preaching"
    - I don't like bad doctor's diagnoses
  - An allergy to truths we don't like
    - Aisha convo
  - This goes perfectly with the overall context of Mark 8-9
    - 2 comings
      - 1st is for salvation from sin
        - To make you citizens of the eternal kingdom
        - By sacrifice
      - 2nd establish an eternal kingdom
    - Our participation requires total commitment
      - Turning from this life of sin
      - To God
  - The urgency of the gospel
    - Culture is uncomfortable with this
      - Jesus preached it.
  - Coronavirus huge
    - Gospel, bigger.
- The stakes are higher than they expect.
  - They are eternal
  - A constant challenge Jesus faced and we face.
    - Jesus trying to wake us up
      - ***Luke 12:16–21 (NASB95) [16]And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. [17]"And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' [18]"Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. [19]'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up***

for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.” ’ [20]“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’ [21]“So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

- AND is not rich toward God
- The world as a replacement for true life in God.

- Parable of the soils ***Mark 4:18–19 (NASB95) [18]“And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, [19]but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.***

- Mk 8 - The confusion about the 2 food miracles
  - truths with eternal consequence
    - his body and blood
- ***Mark 8:36–37 (NASB95) [36]“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? [37]“For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?***
- In ***Mk 10:30 “in the age to come eternal life”***
- Their original calling was probably missed by them
  - ***Mark 1:17 (NASB95) [17]And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”***
    - Evangelism – bringing people into the kingdom

- Next phrase challenging.

[49]“For everyone will be salted with fire.

- Two somewhat disjointed sayings follow what was above.
  - “fire” above was final judgment
  - “fire” here is trials
    - How so? They are only “salted” with it. Seasoned with it.
      - Trials that season them.. make them more salty
      - We all go through trials
        - This sets our attitude toward trials.
          - As changing us.
      - ***1 Peter 1:6–7 (NASB95) [6]In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, [7]so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;***
      - ***James 1:2–4 (NASB95) [2]Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, [3]knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. [4]And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.***

- Then, as if launching off the word “salt” Jesus speaks of being salty.

[50]“Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

- Modern use of “salty”
  - Bad attitude, upset you lost, etc.
  - They knew it as three things
    - Life saving
      - Share the gospel
    - Flavor giving
      - Holy lives in this world
    - Sacrifice making

- ***Leviticus 2:13 (NASB95) 'Every grain offering of yours, moreover, you shall season with salt, so that the salt of the covenant of your God shall not be lacking from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.***
- ***Exodus 30:35 (NASB95) [35] "With it you shall make incense, a perfume, the work of a perfumer, salted, pure, and holy.***
- Be offered to God completely.

  - One commentary - "the process of salting with fire makes a salty disciple"

- Becomes unsalty?
  - With what will you make it salty again
    - The church is to lead in moral and spiritual goodness
      - Get your eyes on Jesus and be the example
    - Modern culture creates critics, not examples
- Prayer.

Christianity was made for this

3

It was made for stuff WAY worse than this.

Scripture

1- Eternal glory awaits
2- Eternal glory outweighs
3- Don't worry about tomorrow
4- Still prepare and deal soberly with issues
5- Don't compromise your integrity
   a. In crisis
6- Yield to the govt.
   a. Unless it's sin