

## A Study of Mark – Lesson 28

### Mark 9:33-50 Walking and Teaching

9<sup>33</sup> They came to Capernaum. / When he was in the house, / he asked them, / “What were you arguing about on the road?” /

<sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet / because on the way / they had argued about who was the greatest.

<sup>35</sup> Sitting down, / Jesus called the Twelve and said, / “Anyone who wants to be first / must be the very last, / and the servant of all.” /

<sup>36</sup> He took a little child / whom he placed among them. / Taking the child in his arms, / he said to them, / <sup>37</sup> “Whoever welcomes one of these little children / in my name / welcomes me; / and whoever welcomes me / does not welcome me / but the one who sent me.” /



<sup>38</sup> “Teacher,” / said John, / “we saw someone driving out demons / in your name / and we told him to stop, / because he was not one of us.” /

<sup>39</sup> “Do not stop him,” / Jesus said. / “For no one who does a miracle / in my name / can in the next moment say anything bad about me, / <sup>40</sup> for whoever is not against us / is for us. / <sup>41</sup> Truly I tell you, / anyone who gives you a cup of water / in my name /

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because you belong to the Messiah / will certainly not lose their reward.

<sup>42</sup> “If anyone causes one of these little ones/ —those who believe in me / —to stumble, / it would be better for them / if a large millstone were hung around their neck / and they were thrown into the sea. / <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, / cut it off. / It is better for you to enter life maimed / than with two hands to go into hell, / where the fire never goes out. / <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, / cut it off. / It is better for you to enter life crippled / than to have two feet / and be thrown into hell. / <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, / pluck 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, / <sup>48</sup> where



“the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.’

<sup>49</sup> Everyone will be salted with fire.

<sup>50</sup> “Salt is good, / but if it loses its saltiness, / how can you make it salty again? / Have salt among yourselves, / and be at peace with each other.”

## ***Vocabulary***

1. **To argue:** Argument, argumentative: Disagreeing about something.

Are you arguing about who will pay the bill?

Jesus heard the argument among his disciples.

That man is too argumentative; he just likes a verbal battle.

2. **Ashamed:** (adjective). Embarrassed or regretful.

The disciples were ashamed of their desire to be the greatest.

3. **Maimed:** Disfigured. Crippled. Handicapped. Deeply scarred or missing an arm or a leg.

4. **Demon:** an evil supernatural being such as a ghost or spirit.

5. **To stumble:** To almost fall. To walk very unsteady.

6. **Millstone:** A huge circular rock used for grinding grain.

7. **To pluck:** To remove quickly. To play a stringed musical instrument by quickly releasing strings.

## ***Questions***

1. What question did Jesus ask the disciples?
2. Why didn't they answer Jesus? What kind of power did the disciples want?
3. Can a person often say something to they don't want known?  
What does it mean to feel shame or to be ashamed?
4. Look up Matthew 18:1-9 and Luke 9:46-50. Why do we have 3 versions of this story?

5. Is ambition bad? Do you think Jesus thought it was bad?
6. Why is Christianity different? See verse 35. What does it mean?
7. Did everyone believe in demons during the time of Jesus?
8. What does it mean, “to give a cup of water in my name”?
9. What is sin? How can a person cause someone else to sin?
10. If a millstone is tied around your neck, what happens to you?

### **Notes**

11. Jesus continues his teaching of the disciples in Capernaum, a town in Galilee of Judea. (See v. 33) It was known as the place where Jesus taught, had many friends and worked. Jesus is now in Judea, at the mercy of the religious people who hated him and the Roman military. These are deeper teachings for the disciples and followers, perhaps to prepare them for the responsibilities when Jesus is no longer on earth.
12. Jesus talks about hell, or Gehenna, the valley of Hinnon, near Jerusalem. It is actually a place of trash and refuse— a terrible place. It’s bad reputation comes from the time of King Ahaz, and it was the place of child sacrifice to the god Moloch. Jesus believed in punishment from God. Perhaps our concept of hell is a little changed over the centuries.
13. The statements of salt are just put down here. They have no relationship to one another. It is as if Jesus often said one or the other and the writer just put them together.