

Sin Is Serious and Hell Is Real

Mark 9:42-50

Into the Lesson:

How long can you hold your breath while underwater (not counting possible baptistry mishaps)?

Current "World Freediving" Record:

No limit freediving- 702 feet by Herbert Nitsch in 2007

Other categories include Free Immersion, Constant weight

Bi-fins, Constant weight Mono Fin and Constant weight No

Fins. (Do you think the No fin guys taunt the fin users?)

Into the Word:

As you reread Mark 9:42-50, how do verses 41 and 50 seem like "bookends" for the Disciples as they come to understand their mission?

What would you imagine was going through the Disciples' minds as Jesus related verse 31 then drops the heavy bomb of verse 42?

How do verses 33-41 help to understand who the "little ones" of verse 42 are?

From commentaries or previous studies, is literal dismemberment being called for in verses 43-47?

How does Matthew 18:6-10 help to understand this important teaching?

How about the children's Sunday School song, "Be careful Little Hands..."

To further understand the scope of "hands", "feet" and "eyes" compare this passage with I John 2:15-17.

How does this further compare with Jesus' temptation in Luke 4:1-13?

Luke 16:19-31 provides a picture of what hell (hades) will be like, how does this fit with what we read in verse 48?

How do Lane's words. "He spoke of hell to the people who thought that they were the saints...", provide a further "millstone" to our Discipleship efforts?

Into Life:

What are some of the indications that, "...we live in a culture that toys with sin and trivializes any notion of hell"?

How does Deuteronomy 32:4 provide the answer so many in our culture ask, "if God is a God of Love, how can he send anyone to hell"?

How can we convey to this culture the truth that, "although hell is real - you don't have to go there"?

How can Romans 12:9-21 provide a strong starting point in our efforts to be a Disciple?

As you read this list choose at least three verses that, by the Grace and Power of God, you will endeavor to make evident in your life this week.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

- 1 Peter 3:15-16