

# Cut Off My Hand

## **Matthew 18:6-8 & Mark 9:36-50**

Welcome back and here we go! Today's study closely follows last week's study and, in fact, they are meant to be together. We touched on *verses in Matthew 18:1-5 and Mark 9:36-41* last week. Now we will bring it into better context. Last week's last questions should have been in this week's lesson! Let's read the text and get up to speed.

### **Matthew 18:6-8 and Mark 9:36-50**

Here are some starter points:

***1 John 2:1-2 and 12-14***

***1 John 2:28 – 3:3***

Salt – Word of God

Fire – Judgment

- 1) Who are the little children?

You know it is easy to quench the zeal of a young believer.

“Break – dancing”

In worldly terms, it is not hard to see this, especially if we do not understand it. For believers, one of the easiest ways to discourage is the idea of music and worship.

- 2) How else do believers discourage one another?

It is even easier if it is a different denomination. In terms of family, then it becomes almost second nature to realize how wrong our family members are. John strongly suggests that we refrain from this behavior...

### **Mark 9:42-48**

Here we have a dissertation on the end result for people who refuse to accept Christ and stop sinning.

### **Isaiah 66:22-24**

Just as God has promised eternal life, He has assured us hell is real as well.

In a ravine northeast of Jerusalem, outside the Refuse Gate was a valley called “Gehena” where King Ahaz had set up false worship with fire. In Jesus' time it was now basically the city dump, where not only trash but unclean corpses were taken to rot, and it was perpetually burning.

The Worm – The internal pain (mental)

The Fire – Physical loss

3) What kind of internal pain do you experience when you sin?

Well for one, when we let sin separate us from our relationship with God, we experience loss of peace.

Jewish tradition taught sin was external – actions. Jesus taught it is mental which results in (external) so Jesus covers both. Cut off the physical to fix the mental....

They understood that and understood the reference to Isaiah... which leads us to...

**Mark 9:49-50** *“For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves and have peace with one another.”*

4) Does physical removal --- remove emotional/internal pain?

Now it is everyone --- Believer and Unbeliever..... Loss

5) How have you been seasoned with fire? What are you doing about the emotional pain?

Physical loss. We must lose to gain, serve to be great. We all lose something in this journey with God. Each sacrifice or loss is brought about by the teachings of the Word of God. Everything we lose in this life to gain Christ comes about because of our knowledge of Christ.

**Mark 8:50**

6) What does it mean *if salt loses its flavor*?

...When the Word no longer has any affect or impact on your life, when you have become full of pride and refuse to bend... when you have a callous on your heart and no longer feel the pricking of the conscience, of the Holy Spirit....

7) (Personal) Where has your sin become more important than what you already know?

Let's pray.