



## The Story & Way of Jesus

### Different Kind of King, Different Kind of Kingdom

Mark 9:38-50

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#### **Mark 9:38-50**

“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.”

“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, for whoever is not against us is for us. Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward. 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. 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. 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. 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, where

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

Everyone will be salted with fire.

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.”

### ***Part 1: A long time ago...***

#### **Mark 1:2-3**

I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way—a voice of one calling in the wilderness “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”

#### **Mark 1:15**

“The time has come”, he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news.”

#### **Mark 8:31**

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

#### **Mark 8:33-35**

“Get behind me Satan” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely the concerns of man.” Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.”

## ***Part 2: I got soul, but I'm not a soldier***

### **Mark 9:38**

“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.”

### **Mark 9:39-40**

“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, for whoever is not against us is for us.”

#### Kingdoms, As We Know Them

1. Built around a king or queen: temporal, can be corrupt, volatile
2. Built of what the king or queen is about: self-preservation, privilege & power, their own agenda
3. Built around a system of separation & exclusivity: a king or queen separate from their subjects, those inside the kingdom separate from those outside the kingdom
4. Built on absolute power & authority: used as a tool of oppression & suffering
5. Ideally peaceful

### **Mark 9:42**

“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.”

## ***Part 3: ‘Tis but a flesh wound***

### **Mark 9:42-47**

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.

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. 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.

Mark 9:42-47 is an illustration of the incomparable goodness and salvation King Jesus brings with His Kingdom and the essential formational work His Spirit does in us.

#### ***Part 4: The Cost***

##### Kingdom of God

1. Eternal peace: within our own hearts, between us & others
2. Built around God with us: God lowering Himself to be with His people, His desire is that everyone will be part of His Kingdom
3. God has absolute power & authority: chose to withhold his right to those things to take on our suffering
4. Built around what God is about: radical self-sacrificing love, the last shall be first, the flourishing of others
5. Built around God: righteous & just, eternal, stable

#### **Matthew 45:13**

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.