



St. Anne's Bible Study Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021 **Mark 9:38-50**

Opening Prayer (Collect for Sunday 9/26/21, 18 Pentecost);
O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a **little child** and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my **name** welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

³⁸John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my **name** will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the **name** of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²"If any of you put a stumbling block before **one of these little ones** who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great **millstone** were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your **hand** causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to **hell**, to the unquenchable **fire**. ⁴⁵And if your **foot** causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into **hell**. ⁴⁷And if your **eye** causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the **fire** is never quenched.

⁴⁹"For everyone will be **salted with fire**. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if **salt** has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have **salt** in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Our approach, to include a few word studies.

Two-part teaching: vv 38-41 (re those outside the community doing good)
vv 42-50 caution about consequences of scandal within the community

John a rebuke embodying servant ministry

NAME various biblical names the name(s) of Jesus

Prophetic speech Zones of interaction

Eyes/Heart

Mouth/Ears

Hands/Feet

Self-Examination based on our Gospel text: 3 questions

Little child (9:36)

one of these little ones (9:42)

Romans 14:7 (Jerusalem Bible) *The life and death of each of us has its influence on others.*

Millstone fate -- better than that of those who are countersigns of the Kingdom.

Fires of **Hell/Genenna**

Unquenchable Fire

our 21st century response

What is at stake?

Negative consequences But what is being affirmed?

Salt

Salted with Fire!

Salt in the ancient world.

The Dead Sea

Preservative

Seasoning

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:13)

Other positive biblical metaphors of salt

For everyone will be salted with fire.

Beyond the Gehenna image, what are some **other biblical images of Fire?**

Purification

Preservation

Seasoning

