

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."	<p>Let's pray</p> <p>There are disciples, of these we have 12 Apostles and of these we have the three, Peter James and John.</p> <p>When Moses led the Israelite out of Egypt and into the wilderness, he took responsibility for dealing with all kinds of disputes and it drained him.</p> <p>His father-in-law saw this and told him to delegate and he did.</p> <p>Jesus is in the process of training; he's getting them ready for after his death.</p> <p>The trouble is that when people are given responsibility, they can sometimes let it go to their heads.</p>
39	"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,	<p>On the road to Jerusalem the disciples argued over who was the greatest.</p> <p>James and John wanted to sit on Jesus' left and right when he inherited his kingdom.</p> <p>Here we have another example of this.</p> <p>John tells someone that was driving out demons to stop. Why, because he was not one of US.</p> <p>That person was not a disciple, so he should stop.</p> <p>But, were there other contributing factors?</p> <p>Earlier in chapter 9 the disciples had tried to exorcise a demon from a little boy, but couldn't.</p>
40	for whoever is not against us is for us.	<p>John had also seen the situation as us and them, whereas Jesus saw the man as acting in faith.</p>
41	Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup	<p>James says in chapter 2 of his book:</p> <p>Faith by itself, if not accompanied by action is dead. This man's actions confirmed his faith.</p>

<p>of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.</p>	<p>Jesus then goes further and says that anyone who treats a follower of Christ with any form of kindness, because he is a follower of Christ, will be rewarded for his actions.</p> <p>We live in a world that makes quick judgements on people and situations. It doesn't take into account the motives of the heart. God looks at the heart and measures us accordingly.</p> <p>So, what's your heart like, how do you measure up?</p> <p>Being a Christian is being a servant, not who's the greatest.</p> <p>For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give his life for the ransom of many.</p> <p>What sort of servant are you, one who thinks of his own gain or one who looks after his master's business?</p> <p>But there's a greater question implied here.</p> <p>How committed are you to following Jesus?</p>
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## Causing to Stumble

42	<p>"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.</p>	<p>Jesus is still helping the disciples see that being a follower means that you realise that world values are not God's values.</p> <p>In the previous chapter they'd argued over who was the greatest and addresses the situation by using a little child.</p> <p>This time Jesus uses the child to highlight the problem of having us and them. Almost the opposite situation to that of the person who was casting out demons in Jesus' name.</p> <p>Here we have a situation where someone is causing a believer to stumble, or even fall away.</p>
43	<p>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.</p>	<p>The believer may not be a child but it represents someone who is vulnerable.</p> <p>Putting a stumbling block in their path is what Jesus accused the Pharisees of doing in Matthew 23 when he said:</p> <p><sup>13</sup> "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.</p> <p>Jesus is setting a standard for the behaviour of the disciples.</p> <p>One that often goes against the practices of the world.</p>
45	<p>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two</p>	<p>A Head Teacher once accused me of being too honest for my own good. I knew what he was getting at but, was saddened that he believed that deceit was better than the truth.</p> <p>So, what about the hand, foot and eye?</p>

	feet and be thrown into hell.	This is not advocating self-harm, nor saying that it leads to holiness as was practiced by some groups in the middle-ages.
47	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,	<p>What I think it's addressing is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The hand represents activity, so: What we get involved with and what we do?</li> <li>2. The foot represents movement, so: Who we get involved with and where we go?</li> <li>3. The eye represents what stimulates us, so: What we let into our hearts and minds</li> </ol> <p>Jesus wants his followers to be light in a dark world, to be different and to reflect God's standards in everything we do.</p>
48	where "the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.'	<p>Those who aren't following Jesus are set on a path that leads to destruction and it's important that we understand this because we have a part to play in helping them see Jesus and avoid this.</p>
49	Everyone will be salted with fire.	<p>They won't see Jesus if he's not reflected in the way we live our lives.</p>
50	"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."	<p>If we are no different from those who live worldly lives, why should someone looking at us want to change.</p> <p>Jesus wanted the disciples to be different and he wants the same for us.</p> <p>Jesus summed up the entire Law in the following two sentences: Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'</p> <p>If we try to follow these two instructions we don't gossip, or steal, or lie, or manipulate or pollute, or war,</p>

because other people matter. More importantly people look into our lives and see a little bit of Jesus. Since we aren't perfect, we won't always achieve anything like this, but the Holy Spirit will use our lives non the less.

For the Holy Spirit to transform our lives we have to be willing to change, to admit our wrongdoings. To let go of a value system that's built on self and adopt one built on Christ.

Let's close with a prayer.