

Worth It All
Mark 9:43-48
Charlie Brackett

The Lord had been teaching a lesson on the seriousness of causing a believer in Christ to stumble in his faith. Continuing His comments He said, "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched - "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life lame, rather than having two feet, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched - "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire - "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'"

Jesus gives emphasis to the thought by restating it three times in a form of Hebrew parallelism. He illustrates His point first with the hand, then the foot and finally the eye, each vital to well-being in this life. But if anyone of them causes sin, get rid of it! Wholeness in this life is not worth losing the life to come. Entrance into God's kingdom for the hereafter is worth whatever price must be paid here.

Allow the Lord's words to impress themselves upon your mind. Allow them to move your heart and change your life. Some desirables of this life will have to be put away if we are going to enter into the life to come. Some affections must be cast off. Some associations halted, and some habits changed.

My friend, heaven will be worth it all. We must learn to walk by faith and not by sight. The precious things of this life must be put in perspective with those things spiritual, those things eternal. It is a matter of right priorities. One writer has said, "It is better to make any sacrifice than to retain any sin." The apostle Paul said it this way in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."