



## Mark 9

### “Fearlessly Following Jesus...Sacrificially”

Reading and Study Guide for the  
week of June 11-18, 2023

**Memory Verse for the Gospel of Mark:** *Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."* (Mark 8:34)

**This week, read Mark 9.** On Sunday, June 18: Pastor Doug Adams will be preaching on the theme, “Fearlessly Following Jesus...Sacrificially” (Mark 9:43-47)

#### **Some questions to answer and think about this week with your family or Community Group:**

1. What are your favorite seasonings?
2. What was Jesus’ attitude toward sin? ([9:43-47](#))
3. What does this passage teach about the kingdom of God? ([9:43-47](#))
4. Why did Jesus use extreme examples in this context? ([9:43-48](#))
5. When Jesus talked about "salt," to what exactly was He referring? ([9:50](#))
6. How do you think a Christian can cause others to sin?
7. In what ways is causing another person to sin worse than sinning yourself?
8. How do you plan to apply to your life the principles Jesus taught about avoiding sin?
9. What concrete action can you take this week to avoid a sin that you have struggled with in the recent past?

#### **Life Application Bible Notes**

[9:41, 42](#) [Luke 9:48](#) states, "Whoever is the least among you is the greatest." In Jesus' eyes, whoever welcomes a child welcomes Jesus; giving a cup of cold water to a person in need is the same as giving an offering to God. By contrast, harming others or failing to care for them is a sin, even if they are unimportant people in the world's eyes. It is possible for thoughtless, selfish people to gain a measure of worldly greatness, but lasting greatness is measured by God's standards. What do you use as your measure—personal achievement or unselfish service?

[9:42](#) This caution against harming little ones in the faith applies both to what we do individually as teachers and examples and to what we allow to fester in our Christian fellowship. Our thoughts and actions must be motivated by love ([1 Corinthians 13](#)), and we must be careful about judging others ([Matthew 7:1-5](#); [Romans 14:1-15:4](#)). However, we also have a responsibility to confront flagrant sin within the church ([1 Corinthians 5:12, 13](#)).

**9:43ff** This startling language is not meant to promote self-mutilation, but instead stresses the importance of cutting sin out of your life. Painful self-discipline is required of his true followers. Giving up a relationship, job, or habit that is against God's will may seem just as painful as cutting off a hand, but Christ is worth any possible loss or discomfort. Nothing should stand in the way of faith. We must be ruthless in removing sin from our lives now in order to avoid suffering for eternity. Make your choices from an eternal perspective.

**9:50** Jesus used salt to illustrate three qualities that should be found in his people: (1) *We should remember God's faithfulness*, just as salt when used with a sacrifice recalled God's covenant with his people ([Leviticus 2:13](#)). (2) *We should make a difference in the "flavor" of the world we live in*, just as salt changes meat's flavor (see [Matthew 5:13](#)). (3) *We should counteract the moral decay in society*, just as salt preserves food from decay. When we lose this desire to "salt" the earth with the love and message of God, we become useless to him.

Mark Study Guide questions and notes are from

