

“Salty Saints”
Mark 9:14-50
7/14/24
Message 22

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Salty Saints”

- **Review**

- **From Suffering in Chapter 8**

- Jesus Must SUFFER
 - DBR
- He Asked Those who wanted to follow HIM
 - Do the same

Mark 8:34 (NKJV)

34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, *“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

- **To Glory in Chapter 9**

- Mt. of Transfiguration
- The True Jesus was unveiled

Mark 9:3 (NKJV)

3 His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.

Luke 9:29 (NKJV)

29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.

Matthew 17:2 (NKJV)

2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

- **Now This Morning**

- **We have Some Very Strong Exhortations from Jesus**

- I believe the Key verses to our study are the last 2
- Jump Ahead to verse 49-50

Mark 9:49–50 (NKJV)

49 *“For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt.*

50 *Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”*

- Jesus Tells us in Matthew

Matthew 5:13 (NKJV)

13 *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*

- We are TO BE SALT & LIGHT To this LOST WORLD
- Whatever or whoever we are No matter what walk of LIFE we are to be His Witness to this lost world
- *One Person Said; “Our presence in our world ought to quicken the conscience, elevate conversation, restrain ethical corruption, promote honesty, & raise the moral atmosphere of society.”*
- IN This portion of Scripture
 - We need to be Salty Saints!
 - Jesus lays out how to be Salty

- **This Morning - We Will Look at 2 Fantastic Truths to being Salty Saints**

- Salty Saints Stay Connected To Jesus vs. 14-29
- Salty Saints Serve Jesus & Others vs. 15-50

Salty Saints Stay Connected To Jesus vs. 14-29

- **First: Context**

- **1st The Scene**

- As Jesus comes down from the mountain – (Transfiguration)
 - He's met by a great multitude
- He is met by a desperate father...
 - Pleading for his son...his only child
 - The Child is demon possessed...
 - As we will see the Scripture gives us the description of this son's horrifying condition
 - This father...
 - Powerless to do anything...
 - Watching your only child tortured and literally being destroyed by a demonic being
 - What a horrifying situation!

- **2nd Faith is The Main Subject in this Section**

- The Disciples as we will see **TOOK** their Eyes of Jesus
 - They did not stay connected to the source

- Now Remember – Mark 6:7

Mark 6:7 (NKJV)

7 *And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.*

- BUT here they are NOT having success
 - From the way Jesus answer we can conclude that they lacked FAITH

▪ **GOD WANTS our Faith to BE on / in HIM**

- What we are about to see is the other 9 disciples took their Faith off the Jesus
 - Started to operate in their own strength
- Our Faith Must always be on / in Jesus

• **Second: The Father Little Boy vs. 14-18**

- **1st Scribes Disputing with them v. 14-16**

Mark 9:14–16 (NKJV)

14 *And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them.*

15 *Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him.*

16 *And He asked the scribes, “What are you discussing with them?”*

- From the context –
 - We can assume (scribes disputing with them)
 - Most likely the scribes criticized the disciples for their inability to help the demon-possessed boy.

- **2nd A Mute Spirit vs. 17-18 & 20-22a**

Mark 9:17–18 (NKJV)

17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.

18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

Mark 9:20–22 (NKJV)

20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

21 So He asked his father, “*How long has this been happening to him?*” And he said, “From childhood.

22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

▪ **The Description**

- A spirit seizes him – literally takes him over
- He suddenly cries out
- He foams at the mouth...bruising him
- Caused this boy to be unable to communicate (deaf and dumb)
- Often thrown him into the fire and into the water to DESTROY him
- NOTE:
 - The boy displayed signs that many today would regard as Epilepsy
 - BUT –
 - This is not the case it was caused by demonic possession.

- **Again - So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”**

- They should have been able to cast it out, but they could not

- Again - Jesus had given them authority over unclean spirits (Mark 6:7)

- Yet for some reason the disciples Failed!

- *Wiersbe; "How often He must be grieved with us when we fail to use the spiritual resources He has graciously given to His people"*

- **Application - Reminder that is Satan has come to destroy**

John 10:10 (NKJV)

10 *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

- Remember the demonic realm is nothing to mess with

- Stay away from it the Occult
- New Age

- We CAN'T be Demon Possessed (1 John 4:4)

1 John 4:4 (NKJV)

4 *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

- BUT we can BE IN SIN

- The Consequences of sin are very similar upon us

- We can't have a demon like this – if your saved
- But a demon can come very subtly
- Lead us away into Sin, pride and materialism...

- Get us going away from God
- KEEP YOUR ARMOR ON
 - Remember: We are not in a playground...but a battleground...
 - Stay connected to Jesus

Ephesians 6:10–13 (NKJV)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

• **Second: The Failure v. 19**

- **1st O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you?**

Mark 9:19 (NKJV)

19 He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.”

Luke 9:41 (NKJV)

41 Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.”

- Note Luke 9:41 added “O faithless and perverse generation...”

- The word “Perverse”

- Greek: diastréphō;

- Means: Denoting separation, to turn. To turn or twist throughout or to distort, pervert.

- Jesus is saying in other words...
 - “You’ve been twisting and turning the whole point of everything I’ve been saying to you”
 - AKA: NOW will you listen to ME?!
 - When you read this...
 - Do you sense a little anger...its righteous anger

▪ **Who is the Faithless Generation?**

- For Sure the Contentious Scribes
 - Most likely will not figure this out
- The Desperate Father
 - Lord I Believe BUT help my unbelief
- The Unsuccessful Disciples
 - Mark 9:28-29 - Operated In their Own Power
 - They had stopped Praying and Fasting
 - Thought, they can do this MINISTRY in our own STRENGTH
 - Focused on who would be the greatest

• **Third: The Father’s Response vs. 22b-24**

- **1st But if you can do anything v. 22b**

Mark 9:22 (NKJV)

22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

- BUT IF YOU

- The man seemed unsure if Jesus could do anything

- **2nd If You Can Believe - Lord, I believe; help my unbelief vs. 23-24**

Mark 9:23–24 (NKJV)

23 Jesus said to him, *“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”*

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, *“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”*

- If You Can “Believe”

- ALL THINGS ARE Possible with GOD

- He is LORD –

- He created out on Nothing -

- So, he tearfully plead with Jesus: Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!

- In this case,

- The man’s unbelief was not a rebellion against

- Or a rejection of God’s promise.

- He did not deny God’s promise; he desired it.

- However, it just seemed too good to be true.

- Thus he said, “help my unbelief!”

- Application

- How Many times have felt that way

- Lord - I Believe – BUT I need your help with my unbelief
- Why don't we trust Him MORE
- Illustration
 - I know you have provided a millions times before this BUT now...
 - Precious Brothers & Sisters – God Loves us – He desires to Bless us
 - Hold Fast to His PROMISES Hold FAST TO HIM

• **Fourth: Faithful Jesus vs. 25-27**

- **1st Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him:**

Mark 9:25–27 (NKJV)

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, *“Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!”*

26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.”

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

- **Knowing he must leave**
 - The demon did the most damage he could before he left.
 - But it was not lasting damage
 - NEVER to come Back

• **Fifth: The Faithless Disciples v. 28- 29**

- **1st Why could we not cast it out? v. 28**

Mark 9:28 (NKJV)

28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"

- Why?!
 - Jesus revealed the reason for their weakness:
 - It was due to a lack of prayer and fasting.
- 2nd This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting v. 29

Mark 9:29 (NKJV)

29 So He said to them, "*This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.*"

- The power of faith is IN JESUS... NOT "our" faith
 - Guzik; "It isn't that prayer and fasting make us more worthy to cast out demons. It is that prayer and fasting draw us closer to the heart of God, and they put us more in line with His power. They are an expression of our total dependence on Him."
- The POWER
 - To live the Christian LIFE
 - To do MINISTRY is in Jesus
 - Is ONLY in Jesus
 - Not in an OBJECT
 - BUT FAITH in Jesus
 - CAUTION:
 - We can make the mistake of thinking of faith as the object

- If I only had enough faith
- Faith in some method...
- Faith in God's gifts that He gave me
- But no matter what we've been gifted with...
- If WE ARE NOT ON OUR FACE BEFORE HIM they will be lost!!!
- **But it seems that these 9 Disciples Forgot that**
 - They somehow got discounted from the SOURCE – Jesus
 - Prayer, Devo Time lacking
 - Or became just a Routine...
 - We can't let that happen to us
 - Stay Connected
- **Application**
 - We must NEVER serve Jesus in our Own Strength
 - Sadly so many do
 - Without Devotion to Jesus we will FAIL
 - This is Why the Lord is instructing me to take time off to PRAY & FAST

Salty Saints Serve Jesus & Others vs. 15-50

- ***First: The Problem vs. 30-34***

○ **1st Understand What Jesus was Teaching vs. 30-32**

Mark 9:30–32 (NKJV)

30 Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it.

31 For He taught His disciples and said to them, *“The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”*

32 But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.

- Luke

Luke 9:44–45 (NKJV)

44 *“Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men.”*

45 But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying.

- **The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men**

- Jesus clearly told His disciples of this back in Mark 8:31
- LET THESE WORDS SINK IN

- **But they did not understand this saying:**

- Afraid to say anything
- They hadn't been doing too well lately.
- The last time Jesus told the whole group about His upcoming death, He had rebuked Peter for challenging Him (8:33).
- NOW After having failed to cast the demon out of the boy, Jesus had rebuked them and the crowd:
- I guess they didn't want to admit that they didn't understand what He was talking about.

○ **2nd The Dispute vs. 33-34**

Mark 9:33–34 (NKJV)

33 Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, *“What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?”*

34 But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.

▪ **The Scene**

- Jesus just
 - Healed the boy
 - Rebuked them for their lack of faith and not understanding who He is
 - Reminds them of the plan of God
 - He’s going to set His face towards Jerusalem...
- NOW What are they talking about?
 - They ARE ARGUING who’s going to be #1 in the kingdom
 - O MY!!! Talk about human nature!
 - Talk about disconnect

• **Second: The Prerequisites To Greatness vs. 35-37**

- **1st He sat down v. 35a**

Mark 9:35 (NKJV)

35 And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, *“If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”*

▪ **By sitting down**

- Jesus showed that he was going to teach.

- Jesus deliberately took up the position of a Rabbi teaching his pupils before he spoke
- **2nd If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all v. 35b**

Mark 9:35 (NKJV)

35 And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

- The Way The World Measure Success
 - In Sports –
 - Stats
 - Records
 - Achievements
 - Wins & losses
 - Big Game Winners
 - In Business –
 - Measured in much the same way - Sales & Income
 - In Ministry
 - At times We measure greatness in the wrong way
 - We measure greatness by the size of a person's Bible study or Church
 - BUT REAL Greatness in Ministry
 - Obedient
 - Faithful

- Preserve
- SERVANT of ALL
- **He shall be last of all and servant of all.**
 - Jesus challenged us to be LAST OF ALL
 - The desire to
 - Be praised
 - To gain recognition
 - Should NOT BE A DESIRE in God's Servants
 - Embrace
 - BEING LAST
 - Allow others to be preferred before us
 - Jesus challenges us to be the servant of all.
 - In the worldly idea of power, a great man is distinguished by how many people serve him.
 - Jesus says – TRUE Greatness – is in SERVING others
- **3rd He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. 36-37**

Mark 9:36–37 (NKJV)

36 *Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them,*

37 *“Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.”*

- **How We MUST Measure Greatness**

- Greatness is seen in receiving others as you would a child
- *One Commentator said; "Now, a child has no influence at all. A child cannot advance a man's career, nor enhance a man's prestige. A child cannot give us things; it's the other way around. A child needs things. A child must have things done for him. And so Jesus is saying, "If a man welcomes the poor, ordinary people, the people who have no influence, and no wealth, and no power, the people who need things done for them, then he's welcoming me. And more than that, he's welcoming God."*

- Serve OTHERS who cant possibly serve you back

▪ **Marks of greatness...**

- Learn to respect people equally...no partiality
- To welcome people simply because they are people
- To take no consideration of whether they can do something for you or not
- The Bible says that we are all equal at the Cross of Christ
- HE'S ALWAYS OUR EXAMPLE
- **Celebrity Christian have NO place in the Body of Christ**

1 Corinthians 1:29 (NKJV)
29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

• **Third: The Pride That Keeps Us From Greatness vs. 38-48**

- **1st Teacher, we saw someone v. 38**

Mark 9:38 (NKJV)

38 Now John answered Him, saying, “Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us.”

▪ **John Saw others that he did not know**

- This guy had not only been using the name of Jesus without permission?!...
 - They were not with Jesus and Disciples
- They were successful in casting out demons
 - While some the disciples had been having some problems.
- SO I STOPPED THEM
 - No Doubt looking for a good job from Jesus
- **2nd For he who is not against us is on our side v. 39-41**

Mark 9:39–41 (NKJV)

39 But Jesus said, “*Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me.*”

40 *For he who is not against us is on our side.*

41 *For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.*

▪ **Not Good Job from Jesus**

- BUT Jesus Answered
 - If they are not against us they are for us
 - Leave them be

▪ **Application**

- **Brings Up the Issue of Sectarianism**

- Means: Excessive attachment to a particular sect or party, especially in religion
- Our church is better than your church – we are the only church
- My Denomination is better

- **1st What this is NOT TEACHING Us**

- Some may use this to say
 - That we can't correct false teaching or churches
 - That ALL churches just need to be accepted without questions
- The Bible is VERY clear
 - We are to confront False teaching / Water Down Teaching
 - Earnestly contend for the faith (Jude1:3)
 - Accursed (Galatians 1:8)
 - I am very passionate in regards to educating about false and watered down teaching
 - Not because I want to appear better – NO – But I want to make sure we are ALL being Bereans

- **2nd What this IS TEACHING Us**

- Stay away from my church is better than your church
 - That my Denomination is better

- Application
 - We must avoid the idea that Calvary Chapels have it ALL RIGHT and NO One else does
 - There are MANY more great churches in our world
 - God will always have His remnant
 - There are Different Methods BUT the same fundamentals
 - The Baptist have their way
 - The Pentecostals have it their way
 - Both have strength and Weaknesses
 - Calvary Chapel's
 - Been Said we are in the middle of the 2
 - We are not accepted by either group
 - We are too Baptist to be Pentecostals
 - We are too Pentecostals to be Baptist
 - What we Believe
 - We Believe in ALL the GIFTS of the Spirit
 - We are very Fundamental

- BE Strong in the Word
 - Teaching – the Whole Counsel of God
 - Book by Book, Chapter by Chapter, Verse by Verse
 - Even when it's not popular and considered boring by some Christians
- **3rd Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble v. 42**

Mark 9:42 (NKJV)

42 *"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea."*

▪ **Don't Cause ANYONE to stumble**

- Not just kids – BUT His Creation
- NOTE
 - In that day, there were two different sizes of millstones.
 - The smaller one was used by a woman to grind a small amount of grain.
 - The larger one was turned by a donkey to grind a larger amount of grain.
 - Jesus referred to the larger kind of millstone here.

▪ **Application**

- DON'T Cause ANYONE to stumble in matters of God / Jesus Faith

- So watch anything that can unnecessarily cause divisions.
- **4th SIN is Serious – Deal With it! Vs. 43-48**

Mark 9:43–48 (NKJV)

- 43** *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—*
- 44** *where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’*
- 45** *And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—*
- 46** *where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’*
- 47** *And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire—*
- 48** *where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’*

▪ **What this is NOT Teaching Us**

- That we have to mutilated ourselves in dealing with SIN
 - Thank God – because we would not be here – we would all be cut so bad we would have died
- Sin is more a matter of the heart
 - If I cut off my right hand, my left is still ready to sin.
 - If I completely dismember my body, I can still sin in my mind and in my heart.

▪ **What this IS TEACHING US**

- Deal with SIN SERIOUSLY
 - Stop at all costs.

- The point is that when it comes to getting away from sin, you need to do whatever it takes.
- Illustration
 - It was May, 2003. Aron Ralston was climbing in an isolated canyon in Utah. A boulder shifted. Ralston said he moved quick enough to get his body and left arm out of its path but couldn't get his right arm out of the way of the falling rock.
 - For five days he stayed trapped with his arm under the bolder. He tried all sorts of things to get free. Finally, after having exhausted the little supply of food and water he had, he made the decision that the only way he was going to survive was to amputate his arm.

- HELL IS REAL

- There are some who think that when the wicked die, they just sort of fade away.
- The Bible teaches that when a person rejects Jesus Christ, they will have to pay for their own sins, and that means going to hell.
- The Bible describes hell
 - A place of eternal torment and separation from God
 - Outer darkness: Jesus says people will be "cast out into outer darkness" (Matthew 8:12)
 - Lake of fire: Revelations 21:8 says people will have their part in a lake that "burneth with fire and brimstone"

- Conscious torment: Hell is a furnace of fire that never goes out (Matthew 13:49-50)
- Unquenchable thirst: Hell is a place of agonizing thirst that can never be quenched (Luke 16:22-24)
- Eternal separation: Hell is a place of eternal separation from God's blessings
- Weeping and gnashing of teeth: People will gnash their teeth in anguish and regret
- Worm that doesn't die: Hell is a place of excruciating misery where the worm does not die (1, 2)

• **Fourth: The Principles Of Salt vs. 49-50**

○ **1st For everyone will be seasoned with fire v. 49-50**

- For Everyone v. 40

Mark 9:49 (NKJV)

49 “For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt.

- This passage has led to many different interpretations.
 - *BKC; “This enigmatic statement, unique to Mark, is difficult to interpret. About 15 possible explanations have been suggested.”*
- 1st Main Interpretation
 - That fire refers to tribulation and suffering; these things accompany the “living sacrifice” (Romans 12:1) of the disciple.
 - Since Old Testament sacrifices always included salt (Leviticus 2:13)

- Jesus is saying, “Just as every sacrifice under the law required salt, so the living sacrifice My followers bring to Me must be seasoned with suffering and tribulations.”
- 2nd Main interpretation
 - That fire refers to the Holy Spirit.
 - As His presence in our lives “seasons” us, it purifies, preserves, and adds flavor to our lives, thus making our “living sacrifice” acceptable to God.

▪ **Salt is GOOD v. 50**

Mark 9:50 (NKJV)

50 *Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”*

- Jesus is saying two things –
- 1st Stay useful - Stay salty - Affect your world
 - We MUST all have a good affect on our world
 - Leave a mark 😊
- 2nd Get along.
 - The fellows have been arguing over who was the greatest.
 - Could Jesus be saying that their arguing over who was to be the greatest was a concern to him and that they needed to stop it at all costs?
 - Perhaps when we argue over who is going to be greatest, we lose some of our effectiveness, our “saltiness”

Closing

- Lets STAY SALTY SAINTS