

An open scroll with Hebrew text is shown against a dark background. The scroll is unrolled, revealing several lines of text in a traditional Hebrew script. To the left of the scroll is a wooden handle, likely made of olive wood, which is used to unroll the scroll. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the scroll and the wood of the handle.

The Gospel of Mark

Chapter 9

Mark: Chapter 9

33 And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?

34 But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.

Mark 9:33-34

- Probably now back at Peter's house
- *Gr. "Dialogizomai"* - to bring together different reasons, to reckon up the reasons, to reason, revolve in one's mind,

Mark: Chapter 9

35 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of **all**, and servant of **all**.

Mark 9:35

- Note the way Jesus deals with this...
- Not with open rebuke
- But gently!
 - *“A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench”* (Matt 12:20 / Isaiah 42:3)

Mark: Chapter 9

36 And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them,

37 Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

Mark 9:36-37

- Matt 18:2 “Jesus called a little child”

Mark: Chapter 9

38 And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us.

39 But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.

Mark 9:38-39

Mark: Chapter 9

- 40 For he that is not against us is on our part.
- 41 For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his **reward.**
- 42 And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

Mark 9:40-42

Mark: Chapter 9

43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:43-44

- Jesus spoke of hell as a real place!

A god to suite you

“Excellent topic! I truly enjoyed reading “Does Heaven Exist?” I am a devout Christian, and don’t give much thought to heaven. My spirituality isn’t based on an anthropomorphic, kick-butt God who will throw four generations of children into eternal damnation because some distant forefather ticked him off. Heaven is the flip side of the absolutely barbaric notion of hell that evolved under that kick-butt mindset... To me, God is a symbol for something unfathomable, an utter mystery that fills my heart with joy and my spirit with song.”

Letter published in Time magazine

A god to suite you

“Notice the use of the words “To me...” That is the key. To be an idolater, you make a god to suit yourself, one devoid of reference to sin, righteousness, and judgment. Make sure he or she likes the things you like and hates the things you hate. If you like lust, so will your god, If your god doesn’t mind lying and stealing, then you can lie, steal, and lust to your hearts content. Your god will fill your heart with joy and your spirit with song... right up until Judgment Day!

Response by Ray comfort

Hell?

5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

Proverbs 28:5

Mark: Chapter 9

45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:45-46

Mark: Chapter 9

47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:47-48

- Note the things to keep in check:
 - Everything you do (hand)
 - Everywhere you go (foot)
 - Everything you see (eye)

Mark: Chapter 9

49 For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.

50 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.

Mark 9:49-50

A Disciplined Life

- *“Jesus did not say that everyone must cut off the right hand, but — “If your right hand offends you in your walk with Me, cut it off.” There are many things that are perfectly legitimate, but if you are going to concentrate on God you cannot do them. Your right hand is one of the best things you have, but, says Jesus, if it hinders you in following His precepts, cut it off. This line of discipline is the sternest one that ever struck mankind”.*

A Disciplined Life

- *“When God alters a man by regeneration, the characteristic of the life to begin with is that it is maimed. There are a hundred and one things you dare not do, things that to you and in the eyes of the world that knows you are as your right hand and your eye, and the unspiritual person says — “Whatever is wrong in that? How absurd you are!” There never has been a saint yet who did not have to live a maimed life to start with. But it is better to enter into life maimed and lovely in God’s sight than to be lovely in man’s sight and lame in God”*
 - Oswald Chambers – My Utmost for His Highest

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To be continued...

