

A serene sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and reflecting on the water's surface. In the foreground, an open book lies flat on a dark surface, its pages slightly curved. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

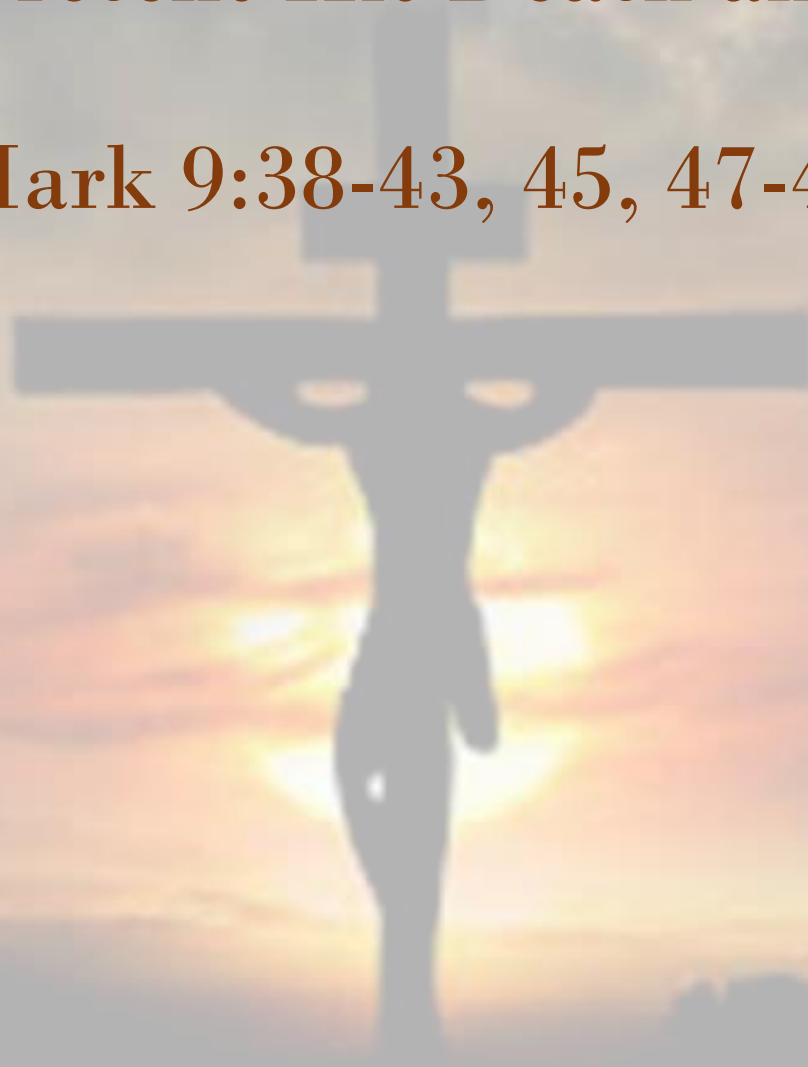
Getting Ready for Sunday!

29 September 2024

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48



John said to him:

Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.

But Jesus said:

Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me.



Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.



If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.



Do you let negativity or indifference block hope and freedom for others?

If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.



Do you use your gifts and talents to build or to destroy?

And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.,



Do your chosen words, actions and thoughts lead you on the path of love, peace, joy, hope ...or towards selfishness, negativity, evil, oppression of others?

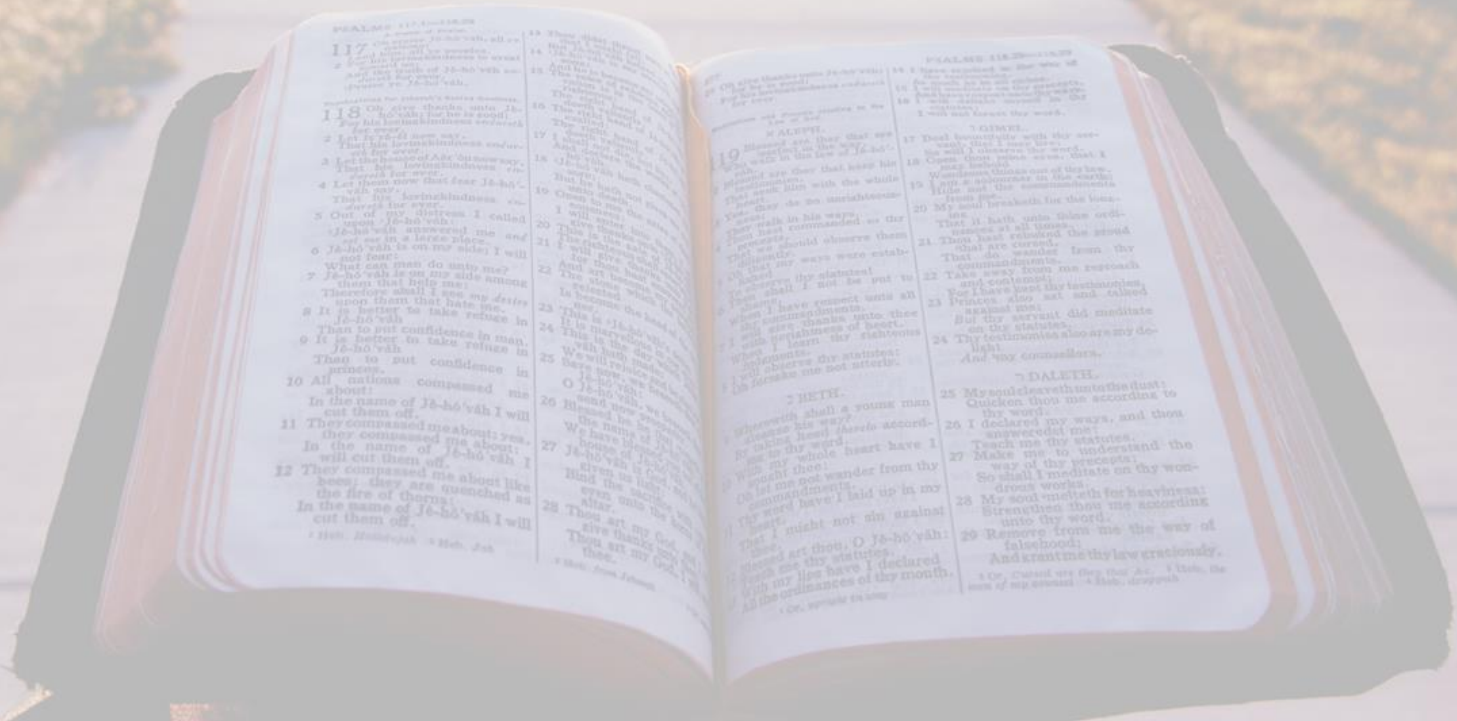
And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.



Life is given to be lived to the full using all the gifts we have been given to the very best of our ability for ourselves and others.

Bible Search

Read Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48 in your family Bible



SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

1. John objected to a person who was not in their group casting out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus himself had no problems with this. Jealousy can poison our outlook even when what is done by another is good. 'S/he is invading my patch.' Perhaps you have seen, in yourself or in others, the negative effect of jealousy and the contrasting positive effect of being able to rejoice that good is being done, irrespective of who is the person doing it.
2. In strong terms Jesus condemns those who are destructive of the life of others, particularly the 'little ones'. Just as Jesus came that we might have life and have it to the full, we likewise are here to make a positive difference to others. What was it like for you when you were able to do something that was helpful to another?
3. Rather dramatically Jesus tells us to cut off a hand, or tear out an eye, rather than harm another. It is not to be taken literally but it does mean that we should not be casual about our efforts to live a good life. When have you experienced the benefits of an element of seriousness in your approach to life?

Consider



*What is preventing you from being the best person you can be?
How do you need to change?*

Praying to Jesus

Pray for the grace to be grateful.



Ask God to help you to be grateful for all experiences in life.