

Matthew 18:8-9 The Worst Thing Possible that Could Happen

Introduction: Before reading our text, let me ask, "What is the worst thing possible that could happen to any man?" It certainly would be a great handicap to loose a hand or foot or eye. I lost temporary use of my right hand when I broke my arm. But that is not the worst that can happen.

I. A strange statement from our Lord.

- A. Back in the previous verses Jesus warned the unsaved not to commit an offense against the saved; in this text He warns the unsaved not to commit offense against his own self.
- B. "If thy hand or foot offend thee" V. 8
 - 1. That is if it does you harm.
 - 2. Not that your hand might slap you in the face or your own foot might kick you in the seat of the pants.
 - 3. But if your hand or foot is habited to a sin that gets you in trouble with God.
 - 4. Particularly if the craving for the sin is so strong that you do not repent and get saved.
- C. In such a case Jesus said "Cut it off and cast it from you." As bad as it might be to go thru life with only one hand or foot, that is not nearly as bad as going to hell.
- D. Likewise in verse 9 Jesus said if your eye offends you pluck it out; it is better to go thru life with one eye than to go to hell.

II. A question

- A. Does Jesus really intend that anyone should actually cut off a hand or foot or pluck out an eye?
- B. No, but if He had intended that, it would still be better than going to hell.
 - 1. If it were necessary to save your physical life, you would cut off a hand or foot or pluck out an eye.
 - 2. Likewise, if cutting off a hand or foot or plucking out an eye would keep you out of hell, it would be worth it wouldn't it?
- C. What Jesus wants everybody to know is that the worst thing that could possibly happen to any man is to go to hell.
 - 1. In verse 8 Jesus calls it "everlasting fire."
 - 2. If you ever go in you never get out.
 - 3. It would be better to go thru life without both hands plus both feet plus both eyes than to go to hell.
- D. He also wants everybody to know that there is no sin in the world worth going to hell for.
 - 1. Some sins bring a great deal of pleasure on a temporary basis.
 - 2. Sometimes it is hard to get a lost sinner to repent of his sin because he enjoys his sin.
 - 3. It is like pulling his "eye teeth" to get him to repent. (Or in keeping with our text, it is like getting him to cut off his hand or foot or plucking out his eye.)
 - 4. One young man came every night in revival asking prayer that he might be saved, but would not repent because he loved his beer. (He was killed in an accident.)

Conclusion: If you are lost Jesus wants you to be saved. He figured that it would be better for Him to have both hands and both feet nailed to the cross than for you to spend eternity in the fires of hell. Repent of your sin and trust Jesus Christ to save you.