

**Colossians 3:8** “But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips.”

**I John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

### **C. We must receive God’s strength to live holy.**

**Galatians 5:16** “So I say live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”

## **The Right Kind of Influence**

**Mark 9:42-50**

**Lesson #37**

**5/17/26**

**Mark 9:35** “Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

**Mark 9:37** “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My Name welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me does not welcome Me but the One who sent Me.”

### **I. There is a warning against influencing others to sin.**

#### **A. A wrong influence will lead others into sin.**

**\*\*Mark 9:42** “And if anyone causes one of these little ones — who believe in me—to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck.”

#### **1. We can influence others to sin when we are entangled in bitterness.**

**Hebrews 12:15** “See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”

#### **2. We can influence others to sin when we are engaged in gossip.**

**Proverbs 16:28** “A perverse man stirs up dissension and a gossip separates close friends.”

#### **3. We can influence others to sin by setting a bad example.**

**Galatians 2:11** “When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong.”

**Galatians 2:12** “Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.”

**Galatians 2:13** “The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.”

## **B. A wrong influence is a serious offence before God.**

**\*\*Mark 9:42b** “... it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck.”

**Mark 9:42** (Amplified) “And whoever causes one of these little ones (these believers) who acknowledge and cleave to Me to stumble and sin, it would be better (more profitable and wholesome) for him if a [huge] millstone were hung about his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.”

## **II. There is a commandment to purge ourselves of sin.**

### **A. We need to be careful about what we do.**

**\*\*Mark 9:43** “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out.”

**\*\*Mark 9:44** “Where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.”

### **B. We need to be careful about where we go.**

**\*\*Mark 9:45** “And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell.”

**\*\*Mark 9:46** “Where the worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.”

### **C. We need to be careful about what we look at.**

**\*\*Mark 9:47** “And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell.”

**\*\*Mark 9:48** “Where their worms does not die, and the fire is not quenched.”

**Mark 7:20** “He went on: “What comes out of a man is what makes him ‘unclean.’<sup>[21]</sup> For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, then, murder, adultery,<sup>[22]</sup> greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.<sup>[23]</sup> All these evils come from inside and make a man unclean.”

## **III. There is a warning not to lose our impact.**

**\*\*Mark 9:49** “Everyone will be salted with fire.”

**Romans 12:1** “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.”

**\*\*Mark 9:50a** “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? ...”

**Luke 14:35** “It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile, it is thrown out.”

**Mark 9:50b** “... Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”

**Galatians 5:15** “If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.”

## **How can we apply this to our life?**

### **A. We should remember that God called us to be holy!**

**Matthew 5:16** “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

**I Thessalonians 4:7** “For God did not call us to be impure but to live a holy life.”

### **B. We should repent of attitudes, actions, or anything that keeps us from living holy.**

**Colossians 3:5** “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature; sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.”