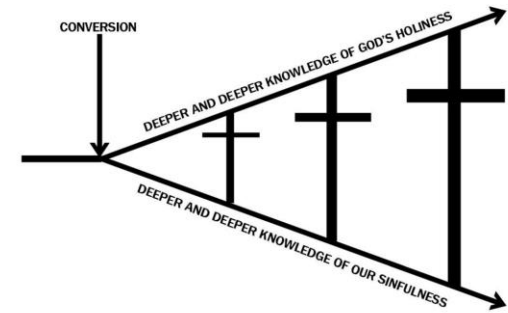


Live in Christ or Die in Sin

Mark 9:30-50

Main Idea: Life with Jesus Has a Cost, but the Reward is Greater Than Anything Else!

1. Vv. 30-41: The failures of the Disciples (and us) to love and see Jesus:
 - a. Two options: Embrace sin or cut it off.
 - b. Martin Luther: "I did not learn my theology all at once, but had to search deeper for it, where my temptations took me" (*WATR* 1:1461).
3. V. 41: Union with Christ rescues us with love:
 - a. You can never be perfect (ex. of St. Jerome), but Jesus is.



Questions for Further Reflection and Application:

1. How does Jesus' candid teaching on Hell challenge the way you confront sin and your own thoughts on Hell? How does his teaching on Hell relate back to his teaching about his death on the cross (vv. 30-32)?
2. While Hell is the punishment for sin, deep union with Christ is the prize and reward for those who belong to him. In Heaven, this union of love between us and Him will be perfect and whole. How can this reality (union with Christ) encourage us to love Him and not our sin? How can it keep us from seeing Heaven as simply a "get-out-of-Hell-free" card?
3. What "hand" (v. 43) do you need to cut off that is slowly killing your relationship with Jesus? What steps must you take to accomplish this and who in your life can help with accountability (see Jms. 5:13-20, esp. v. 16)?
4. What is the significance of the "cross chart" for your walk with the Lord in killing sin and growing closer to Him? How can you keep tendencies of perfectionism away and look to Jesus as your strength and dependence when you fail?