

# Cut It Off

*Promise: Jesus guides his followers on the path leading to life...*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Nu 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Ps 104:27-35; Ja 5:3-20; Mk 9:38-50  
(Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9/26/21)

*And if your hand...foot...[or] eye causes you to sin, cut [it] off... or tear it out. It is better to enter life crippled... lame... [or] blind... than to be thrown into hell. — vv. 43-47*

**Lead In** — The young boy was quizzed by his mother at home after the Divine Service. “Did you pay attention to the sermon this morning?” “Yes I did,” the boy replied. “Okay, what did the Pastor preach about?” the mother asked. “He preached on sin,” the boy answered. “Well,” the mother continued, “was he for it or against it?” “He was definitely against it!” the boy confidently retorted... These questions could be asked of us this morning about our Gospel Text...

## I. Unlike Today's Preachers, Jesus Mentions Sin A Lot

- A. His tone is serious and his warning severe...
- B. Millstones, amputations, plucking, worms, fire...
- C. Not just some, but everyone salted with fire...

## II. The True Reality of the World We Live In

- A. Demonic influences are at work. Sinister evil...
- B. Devil, world, and flesh result in sin and death...
- C. A sense in which hell is already at work...

## III. In Jesus Call to Follow, Heaven Already at Work

- A. There is a reason it is called the path of life...
- B. The Good News is that Jesus comes to us!
- C. Along this path we are salted with fire...

**Parting Shot** — You surely know the cause of sin is not in the hand, foot, or eye! Rather it is in our old sinful nature and emanates from a wicked heart. The remedy for this is the cleansing waters of Christ's forgiveness won by his death on the Cross. And yet, in this newness of life there are things we need to sever ourselves from. If you are attuned to his Word, you will know that they are. These influences may be evil in themselves. Or they may simply be a distraction from the one thing necessary. They pose the danger of hellfire! Our Lord is serious when he says they must be cut off. Our Lord Jesus is against sin, and he is deadly serious about it as he leads us in the path of life.

**Ac 14:22** [Paul was] strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

**1Pe 1:6-7** You have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**Ep 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

**1Pe 5:8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

## Mark 9:38-50 ESV

*Anyone Not Against Us, Is For Us*

<sup>38</sup>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.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>For the one who is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

*Temptations to Sin*

<sup>42</sup>“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>43</sup>And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ <sup>49</sup>For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

**Ro 6:23** For the wages of sin is death.

**Mt 6:13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Ep 2:1-2** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked.

*We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves...*

**Mt 7:13-14** Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

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