Sin, Salt, Savior

[Mar 9:36-43, 45, 47-50 ESV] – 36 And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, 37 "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."
38 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." 39 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. 40 For the one who is not against us is for us. 41 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.
42 "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.
43 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. ... 45 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. ... 47 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, 48 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'
49 For everyone will be salted with fire. 50 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."

I. Intro
   A. Studying the Bible is an adventure
   B. Today we come across a phrase I've not explored before
   C. Actually, Ive not noticed this phrase in fullness until this week
      1. Through many readings of Mark
      2. Through the study and the prep
      3. I did not explore a phrase in this passage until God brought illumination.
   D. Revelation comes from His revealed word, Illumination comes when God shows you something fresh in your study
   E. Lets grab this truth and walk in it today.
   F. Overarching truth for today: Sin is bad, we need a savior, and once we enter into relationship with the savior we are changed forever!
II. Text
   A. Verses 36-37
      1. From last weeks verses, but connects to this week directly
      2. If you are connected to Christ, you will model that in ministry and service
      3. Specifically to the vulnerable and people among is that are powerless in society.
      4. The ministry he was speaking of was one that did not build fame or prestige, just serving as your are called.
   B. Verses 38-41
      1. The ministry was expanding beyond what the disciples could understand
      2. People were casting out demons, but they were not part of the group
      3. The disciples wanted to control things, Jesus wanted to release people to serve, the disciples were still in preparation mode.
   C. Verse 42
      1. This is connected back to the verses from last week
      2. Children were highlighted by Jesus when the disciples were arguing over who was the greatest
      3. Children are highlighted again here as a reminder to take your ministry responsibility seriously, no matter how important society thinks of who you are serving.
   D. Verses 43-47
      1. Sin is nothing to minimize or ignore
      2. Sin is so serious, because of sin Jesus gave His life.

3. God, in His holiness, did not change the rules about sin, but became to solution by becoming the only sacrifice possible for the forgiveness of sin.

E. Verses 49-50
1. Salted with Fire:
   a) Fire represents purification and holiness
   b) Fire is used to describe the glory of God when physically displayed in this realm
2. Salt can only lose its saltiness due to dilution
   a) Sodium chloride can not fail to be sodium chloride
   b) It can become so little sodium chloride in percentage, that it loses its relevance
3. Dilution is caused by allowing sin into your life, affecting purity

III. Points

A. Sin
1. Sin has always been a problem for mankind since the fall.
2. We can do nothing to overcome it, but Jesus overcame.
3. Our sin problem was not ours to solve, we were powerless, but Christ is all powerful.
4. Famous quote regarding sin:
   a) "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay."
   b) Most likely from RG Lee in a famous sermon entitled "payday someday"
5. [Rom 6:23 ESV] – 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
6. Sin is missing the mark, and we continually miss the mark.
7. Sin is a human problem that needed a spiritual solution through Christ.
8. But there is good news!
   a) Sin has a solution
   b) [1Jo 1:5-10 ESV] – 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

B. Salt
1. A little salt goes a long way in flavoring food
2. A lot of salt preserves meat and prevents bacteria from spoiling the meat.
3. We are the salt in the earth, based upon Jesus' sermon on the mount:
   a) [Mat 5:13 ESV] – 13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.
   b) [Mar 9:50 ESV] – 50 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."
4. There is way more to this truth than just adding a little spice to life on earth.
5. We are to serve and make a difference to everyone we touch
6. Salted with fire, then we are preserved with the refining fire of Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit.
   a) The men present at the transfiguration had experienced the refining fire of God
   b) Peter, James, and John would be salted with fire at the day of pentecost and changed forever
   c) When we come to Christ, we are salted with fire
      (1) The purifying, refining fire of the gospel

(2) The power of God set in each of us.

7. And we take this truth and hope to all the world, not just the influential
   a) The children mattered to Christ
   b) They may have been powerless and lacking importance in society, but they matter as much as every other person ever born.
   c) The powerless need to meet the powerful through the people of God

C. Savior
   1. Our savior did this for us, and for kingdom work.
   2. THE GOSPEL
   3. The Calling to walk worthy.
   4. He is the savior of all, we are the ministers of this gospel.
   5. Walk in relationship and fellowship with your savior, and be reminded of it through the Lord's supper.

IV. Close
   A. The Lord's Supper:
   B. He became sin, who knew no sin, that we might become His righteousness,
   C. He died for our sin, and gives us forgiveness.
   D. His righteousness was charged to our account, so we could be salt in this world.