

# The Highway to Hell

## THE HIGHWAY TO HELL

Mark 9:42-50

### FOUR IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

#### (1) What does it mean to cause someone to “*stumble?*”

Mark 9:43-48

- To fall away **COMPLETELY**
- When we cause someone to do something that **DESTROYS THEIR FAITH**

#### (2) Who are “*these little ones?*”

Mark 9:35-37

#### (3) What things cause our “*little ones?*” to stumble?

- **HARSHNESS**  
Colossians 3:21 & Ephesians 6:4
- **SPIRITUAL INDIFFERENCE**  
Proverbs 22:6, 13:24 & Hebrews 12:5-6
- **HYPOCRISY**  
Luke 6:39-42

#### (4) What things cause “*me?*” to stumble?

1 Peter 5:8-9/ James 1:4

- Different **LURES** catch different **FISH**.  
James 1:14-15 & Proverbs 22:3
- When tempted by an *internal* desire, **RUN**.  
2 Timothy 2:22 & 1 Corinthians 6:18
- When tempted by an *external* trial, **STAND FIRM**.  
1 Peter 5:8-9/ James 1:4

**Food for Thought for the week of August 11, 2019**  
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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(NIV – New International Version)

1. This weekend Larry pointed out that sin can be appealing. There are many times when sin looks way easier and way more attractive than obedience. In 1 John 1:5-10 John addresses this issue. How does he contrast walking in sin and walking in the light in a way that could help you when lured by sin today?

**1 John 1:5-10** - *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup> 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, purifies us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.*

Which sins seem to be the most appealing to you and why?

Are there any sins you've worked hard to overcome?

How would you describe the path of sin and the path of light in your own life?

2. In this weekend's message we heard about God's call for us to watch ourselves and make sure we aren't causing others to stumble. What guidance is given in the following verses to help us encourage others and avoid causing them to stumble?

**Psalm 139:23-24** - *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

**Proverbs 15:31** - *Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise.*

**Proverbs 27:6** - *Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.*

**Proverbs 27:17** - *As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*

3. Larry mentioned that failure is not final. The great news is when we fail, we have a God who cares greatly for us, has a plan for us and sees great potential in us. As you read through the following verses, take a moment to recognize how these verses apply to YOU. Then spend a moment thanking God.

**1 John 2:17** - *The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.*

**1 John 2:20-29** - <sup>20</sup> *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.* <sup>21</sup> *I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.* <sup>22</sup> *Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.* <sup>23</sup> *No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.* <sup>24</sup> *As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.* <sup>25</sup> *And this is what he promised us—eternal life.* <sup>26</sup> *I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.* <sup>27</sup> *As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.* <sup>28</sup> *And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.* <sup>29</sup> *If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.*