Mark Lesson 31 (2023)

**MARKS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY**

Mark 9:38-50

Key Verse: 9:50

**Open it:**

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of church denominations? What do you believe are the marks of maturity?

**Explore it:**

1. Read verses 38-41. Why did John try to stop the man from driving out demons in Jesus’ name? What did Jesus say about it? What principle did Jesus teach the disciples? How can we be more unified as a body of believers? What can churches do to support those who are not against them?
2. Read verse 42. How serious is it to cause others to sin? In what ways is causing another person to sin worse than sinning yourself?
3. Read verses 43-47. What figure of speech did Jesus use to whom how serious his point was? What should be our attitude toward sin? Why did Jesus use extreme examples in this context? How do you plan to apply the principles Jesus taught about avoiding sin to your life?
4. Read verses 48-50. How did Jesus describe hell? What did Jesus mean when he said, “Everyone will be salted with fire”? Why is saltiness necessary in the Christian life? What must you do to add some “salt” to your life? What can we do to create peace among believers?

Apply it:

1. What concrete action can you take this week to avoid a sin you have struggled with on the recent street?