

Just a Thought



Hands and Feet and Eyes

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Mark 9: 43-47 are scriptures that are quoted even on secular television, but often not for good. They are quoted usually in derision: “And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off!” The inference is that this is about as stupid as it can get.

In this passage Jesus tells us that if we have a hand, foot, or eye that causes us to sin, it is better to get rid of the offending part than be thrown into hell. Apparently this seems extreme to many people. Why is it not extreme to remove a kidney that has cancer and thus save the body?

I think cancer is something we understand and fear. We know the results of cancer in our bodies: death. We do not really believe that sin, if it is not forgiven, causes death just as surely as cancer if it is not forgiven. Yet the Bible clearly states that the wages of sin are death. (Romans 6: 23) The good news is the last part of that verse: “Yet the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.”

I am still reading in a commentary on Hosea and this is all about sin. People begin to believe something is not sin because everyone else is doing it. It is accepted by society. We are busy and have no time to read God’s instructions. We assume we know what is right and wrong. We assume we can handle our own lives ourselves. We assume that God loves us so much He will not judge our small missteps. We have to remember that Moses did not get to go into the Promised Land because he struck a rock instead of speaking to it. (God knew what was in his heart.)

God does love us enough to give us a way out of our mistakes and sin. It involves repentance. To repent we have to know we sinned. It is the first step toward forgiveness and the eternal life that is offered in the last part of Romans 6:23 and all through the Bible. God made a way for us. We must acknowledge that we need it.