

Check Your Neck! (Mark 9:38-50, esp. vv.42-47)

Introduction: "Cutting off hands & feet, plucking out eyes, tying a millstone on your neck!"

I. CONTRARY TO TODAY'S SOCIETY, GOD TAKES SIN SERIOUSLY

- A. Today, sin is 'winked at' & the *word* sin has almost vanished from our vocabulary
- B. Not so with God: note the graphic language about – hands, feet, eyes (vv. 43-48)
- C. And, what is a *millstone* that is to be "tied around our neck"? (v. 42)

II. WE EASILY NOTICE OTHERS WHOSE SIN IS SERIOUS

- A. Jeffrey Dahmer, Paul Bernardo & Carla Homolka, Adolph Hitler...
- B. Even a well-known Biblical person: King David (2 Samuel 12:1-9)
- C. But David then & we today see other's sins, but not our own (2 Sam. 12:5-7a)
- D. Now, let's look honestly into the mirror of our own lives (Romans 3:23)

III. THE MILLSTONE SHOULD BE TIED AROUND OUR NECK

- A. Check your neck! (Romans 6:23)
- B. We are "that man" spoken of in 2 Samuel 12:7-9a)
- C. Revelation 18 speaks about the "millstone judgment" we deserve due to our sin

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IV. BUT HERE IS SOMETHING AMAZING: THE MILLSTONE HAS BEEN TIED AROUND JESUS' NECK!

- A. The Bible says Jesus has "become sin for us" (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- B. Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, our millstones have been untied!
- C. Check your neck!
- D. Check your neck at every Baptism & celebration of Holy Communion!

Conclusion: *Wetaskiwin, Alberta: 'The hills of peace'* (a millstone untied)