

# Mark 9:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

## Analysis

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Jesus warned about eyes: 'if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire' (ἐὰν ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου σκανδαλίζῃ σε, ἔκβαλε αὐτόν· καλόν σε ἐστὶν μονόφθαλμον εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ ἢ δύο ὀφθαλμοὺς ἔχοντα βληθῆναι εἰς τὴν γέενναν τοῦ πυρός). Eyes represent what we see, desire, covet—the lust of the eyes (1 John 2:16). Jesus taught that lustful looking is adultery (Matthew 5:28). If visual media, internet, or physical locations trigger lust, eliminate them. Better to navigate life partially sighted than enter hell with perfect vision. The phrase 'kingdom of God' (v. 47) is synonymous with 'life' (vv. 43, 45)—eternal life in God's presence. The alternative is 'hell fire' (geennan tou pyros, γέενναν τοῦ πυρός)—eternal separation from God in conscious torment. Jesus demands radical action because stakes are eternal.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Mediterranean culture was highly visual—public baths, theaters, marketplaces provided opportunities for lustful seeing. Jesus' command to 'pluck out' the offending eye was hyperbolic but serious—whatever leads to sin must be eliminated. Blindness in ancient world meant severe disability and likely poverty. Yet Jesus said even this is preferable to hell. The eye's connection to desire appears throughout Scripture—Eve 'saw that the tree was good' (Genesis 3:6), David 'saw a woman washing herself' leading to adultery (2 Samuel 11:2), Achan

'saw... coveted... took' (Joshua 7:21). Jesus taught that external behavior flows from internal desire (Mark 7:20-23). Therefore, controlling input (what eyes see) is crucial for holiness. Digital age intensifies this challenge—pornography, social media, entertainment bombard eyes with temptation. Jesus' teaching demands radical measures.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What 'eyes' (visual media, locations, relationships) might need 'plucking out' to avoid sin in contemporary digital culture?
2. How does Jesus' teaching that internal lust is adultery (Matthew 5:28) elevate moral standards beyond mere external behavior?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἐὰν	ὁ	ὀφθαλμοὺς	σου	σκανδαλίζῃ	σε	ἔκβαλε
And	if	G3588	eye	thine	offend	thee	out
G2532	G1437		G3788	G4675	G4624	G4571	G1544
αὐτόν·	καλόν	σοι	ἐστίν	μονόφθαλμον	εἰσελθεῖν	εἰς	
it	better	for thee	it is	with one eye	to enter	into	
G846	G2570	G4671	G2076	G3442	G1525	G1519	
τὴν	βασιλείαν	τοῦ	θεοῦ	ἢ	δύο	ὀφθαλμοὺς	ἔχοντα
G3588	the kingdom	G3588	of God	than	two	eye	having
	G932		G2316	G2228	G1417	G3788	G2192
βληθῆναι	εἰς	τὴν	γέενναν	τοῦ	πυρὸς,		
to be cast	into	G3588	hell	G3588	fire		
G906	G1519		G1067		G4442		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 9:43** (Parallel theme): And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

**Matthew 18:9** (Parallel theme): And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

**Matthew 5:22** (Parallel theme): But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

**Psalms 119:37** (Parallel theme): Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

**Job 31:1** (Parallel theme): I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

**Genesis 3:6** (Parallel theme): And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

**Luke 14:26** (Parallel theme): If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

**Galatians 4:15** (Parallel theme): Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.