

Matthew 5:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Analysis

Hyperbolic language emphasizes the extreme seriousness of sin and need for radical action. Jesus doesn't command literal self-mutilation but ruthless elimination of sin's occasions. If something causes you to sin, remove it, no matter how valuable. Spiritual purity is worth any earthly sacrifice.

Historical Context

Ancient Jewish and pagan texts sometimes discussed self-mutilation, but the Torah prohibited it. Jesus speaks hyperbolically to shock His audience into recognizing sin's gravity. The eye was considered precious, making the metaphor powerful.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What 'eye' (valuable thing) in your life feeds sinful patterns that you need to remove?
2. How seriously do you take the cost of discipleship and the demand for radical holiness?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	δὲ	ό	όφθαλμός	σου	ό	δεξιὸς	σκανδαλίζει	σε	
if	And	G3588	eye	of thy	G3588	right	offend	thee	
G1487	G1161		G3788	G4675		G1188	G4624	G4571	
ἔξελε	αὐτὸν	καὶ	βληθῆ	ἀπὸ	σου	συμφέρει	γάρ	σοι	
out	it	and	cast	it from	of thy	it is profitable	for	for thee	
G1807	G846	G2532	G906	G575	G4675	G4851	G1063	G4671	
ἴνα	ἀπόληται	ἕν	τῶν	μελῶν	σου	καὶ	μὴ	ὅλον	τὸ
that	should perish	one	G3588	members	of thy	and	not	whole	G3588
G2443	G622	G1520		G3196	G4675	G2532	G3361	G3650	
σῶμά	σου	βληθῆ	εἰς	γέενναν					
body	of thy	cast	into	hell					
G4983	G4675	G906	G1519	G1067					

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:5 (Parallel theme): Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Romans 8:13 (Parallel theme): For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Romans 6:6 (Parallel theme): Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

1 Corinthians 9:27 (Parallel theme): But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Mark 8:36 (Parallel theme): For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Galatians 5:24 (Parallel theme): And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Matthew 10:28 (Parallel theme): And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 19:12 (Parallel theme): For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.

Matthew 23:15 (Parallel theme): Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

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.