

Return To Galilee *“Anticipating the Kingdom With Pride and Prejudice”*

All events take place in Capernaum
Matt 17:22—18:35 // Mark 9:30-50 // Luke 9:43-50

Character Determines Attitude and Action

1. Pride —>fear and ignorance
2. Pride —>ambition and conflict
3. Humility (our rights) and Dependence (our needs)
4. Pride —>prejudice and isolation
5. Humility —>self-discipline and peace
6. Humility —>forgiveness and restoration

Comments on Mk 9:49. All modern translations say “For everyone will be salted with fire.” The TEV says “Everyone will be purified by fire as a sacrifice is purified by salt.”

This is a very difficult expression, and there is much conflicting commentary about it. It is hard to interpret. But I like the TEV because it ties the salt back to the OT sacrifices. Salt was thrown into the fire of the sacrifices and pictured the indestructible nature of God’s promises. The fire of the sacrifice did not destroy the salt and the salt was preserved.

SO, IMHO, salt seems to picture the believer’s humility in the sacrifices we make to God in the name of Jesus. It is the salt of self-judgment and self-discipline. It is the salt of blessing and serving others. The sacrifice is the fire, and sacrifice can be painful. Without humility, pictured as the salt, we cannot persevere in the sacrifice. If we become proud and prejudiced and fail to deal with our own sinful attitudes, then the trials of life will be “unsalted”, worthless, and pointless. We lose our sense of peace, unity and purpose, and even the sacrifices we make are worthless. It is humility that makes our sacrifices eternally worthwhile, or “indestructible”.

I think Mk 9:50 focuses on salt as seasoning. Seasoning makes food more pleasing and tasteful. Jesus says “Have salt in yourselves.” Be humble. Humility makes us attractive, non-threatening, willing to be a blessing. This attracts people to Jesus. “Taste the LORD, and see that He is GOOD” Ps 34 says. Our attitudes, speech and actions attract people to try just a little taste of the Savior that we offer. One taste may show them how hungry they really are! Then the Lord leads them to the table of His feast. The bickering and the prejudice of the disciples? It is not attractive. Jesus has to correct this. That is why His words seem so harsh. His mission is too serious to let this slide. It is not about rank or worth or greatness. It is about being “salty”, being humble. Then they will be at peace with each other and they can offer peace to everyone else. Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth.” Stay that way!