



He Took Them in His Arms

Mark 9:42-10:16

Tony Chute, Interim Pastor

Overview: Jesus provides a series of warnings about sin that serve as sobering but necessary reminders of the disorientation of the human heart when it comes to the things of God. Sin finds many avenues into our lives, carries the potential to wreck the lives of others, and has serious consequences after this life is over. Jesus, therefore, instructs His followers to fight against sin for their own good and for the benefit of others. These truths are illustrated in the discussion that follows regarding marriage and divorce. Although God provided marriage as a lifelong blessing between a man and a woman, unchecked sin can lead one or both hearts to become hardened to the point of separating what God has joined together. As sobering as these truths are, Jesus offers tender hope to everyone who turns to Him in childlike faith—He will indeed take them in His arms and bless them as members of His kingdom.

01. The desire to enter the kingdom of God is evidenced by understanding the nature of our sin, agreeing with the penalty for our sin, and refusing to indulge our sin.

02. The ability to enter the kingdom of God is achieved by coming to the One who knew no sin, trusting in Him who took the penalty for our sin and receiving His righteousness in place of our sin.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

1. Read Mark 9:42-48. Is there any possible way to conclude that Jesus was soft on sin? Why do you think people ignore such hard sayings about sin? Is our denial of sin or minimizing of sin also proof of the pervasiveness of sin?

2. In what ways do you find people influencing others to sin (Mark 9:42)? How do social media, corporate advertisements, and other cultural influences contribute to a worldview that either excludes or denigrates biblical values? How can you ensure that you are influencing others for good, not evil (Mark 9:50)?

3. What issues stand out to you regarding Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce in Mark 10:1-12? Are there legitimate reasons for divorce and remarriage in the Bible? What is the significance of Jesus' citation of Genesis 2 in His response to the Pharisees (verses 5-8)? How should His approach inform our understanding of marriage?

4. How does the section on marriage and divorce illustrate the pervasiveness of sin referred to in Mark 9:42-50? Are we more or less likely to find fault in others (spouse included) when we fight our own sins, as Jesus describes?

5. What does it mean to "receive the kingdom of God like a child?" How does your conversion story reflect a childlike trust in Jesus Christ? What blessings have you received since you have trusted Him as your Savior?

For Further Reading: Dane Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers* (Crossway, 2020).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

**GOD IS ABLE***Verse 1*

God is able, and He will never fail
He is Almighty God
Greater than all we seek
Greater than all we ask
He has done great things

Chorus

Lifted up, He defeated the grave
Raised to life, our God is able
In His name, we overcome
For the Lord, our God is able

Verse 2

God is with us, and God is on our side
He will make a way
Far above all we know
Far above all we hope
He has done great things

Chorus

Lifted up, He defeated the grave
Raised to life, our God is able
In His name, we overcome
For the Lord, our God is able

Bridge

God is with us
And He will go before
He will never leave us
He will never leave us
God is for us
And He has open arms
He will never fail us
He will never fail us

Chorus

Lifted up, He defeated the grave
Raised to life, our God is able
In His name, we overcome
For the Lord, our God is able

Chorus

Lifted up, He defeated the grave
Raised to life, our God is able
In His name, we overcome
For the Lord, our God is able

Tag

For the Lord, our God is able
For the Lord, our God is able

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

Verse 1

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose Name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

Verse 2

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Verse 3

Behold Him there, the Risen Lamb
My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I AM
The King of Glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God
With Christ my Savior and my God

Tag

Hallelujah, hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah

THE STEADFAST LOVE

Chorus

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
His mercies never come to an end
They are new every morning
New every morning
Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord
Great is Thy faithfulness

Chorus

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
His mercies never come to an end
They are new every morning
New every morning
Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord
Great is Thy faithfulness

YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

Verse 1

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer
There is no more, for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine
I can sing,
"All is mine, yet not I but through Christ in me"

Verse 2

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Savior He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won
And I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

Verse 3

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now, and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released
I can sing,
"I am free, yet not I but through Christ in me"

Verse 4

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete
Still my lips shall repeat
“Yet not I but through Christ in me”

Chorus

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete
Still my lips shall repeat
“Yet not I but through Christ in me”

Tag

When the race is complete
Still my lips shall repeat
“Yet not I but through Christ in me”
“Yet not I but through Christ in me”
“Yet not I but through Christ in me”

GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN

Verse 1

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt

Chorus

Grace, grace
God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within
Grace, grace
God's grace
Grace that is greater than all our sin

Verse 4

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace
Freely bestowed on all who believe
You that are longing to see His face
Will you this moment His grace receive?

Chorus

Grace, grace
God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within
Grace, grace
God's grace
Grace that is greater than all our sin

Chorus

Grace, grace
God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within
Grace, grace
God's grace
Grace that is greater than all our sin