

Title: The Things That Keep Us from God

? Scripture Reading:

“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 18:9 (KJV)**

Sermon Message

Jesus wasn't telling us to literally harm ourselves — He was teaching us the **seriousness of sin** and the **cost of compromise**.

The “eye” represents what we look at, what we desire, and what we allow to capture our attention. Sometimes the things that draw our gaze — success, comfort, pleasure, or even certain relationships — can slowly pull our hearts away from God.

Jesus said, *“If it causes you to stumble, cut it off.”*

In other words: **remove anything in your life that keeps you from walking right with God — no matter how precious it seems.**

Story: The Trapper and the Frozen Hand

There's an old story about an Arctic trapper who once set a baited knife in the snow to catch wolves. The knife was coated with blood and frozen over. When the wolves came, they began licking the blade. The cold numbed their tongues — and though they were cutting themselves, they didn't realize it. They kept licking until they bled to death.

That's how sin works. It numbs us at first — we don't feel the danger until it's too late. Jesus warns us not to play around the edge of destruction, but to *“pluck it out and cast it away.”*

Closing Thought

If something in your life — a habit, a thought, a person, a hidden sin — is drawing you away from the Lord, don't negotiate with it. Remove it. Let God replace that space with His grace and peace.

Because it's **better to lose something that hinders you** than to lose the life God intends for you.

Prayer

“Lord, open our eyes to see the things that offend You.
Give us courage to let go of what pulls us from Your presence,
and strength to walk in holiness and truth.
In Jesus' name, Amen.”
