

# Where's Your Chair?

Mark 9 38-50



Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowler;  
the snare is broken and we are delivered.  
Our help is in the name of the Lord, who has made heaven and earth.  
Psalm 124:6-7

## **Praising:**

Son of God, eternal Saviour,  
source of life and truth and grace,  
Son of Man, whose birth among  
us  
hallows all our human race,  
Christ, our Head, whom throned  
in glory,  
for your own will ever plead,  
fill us with your love and pity,  
heal our wrongs and help our  
need.

## **Reading:**

Mark 9:38-50  
Healing and holiness

The Lord's open-hearted reaction to the idea of someone healing in his name underscores the universality of the Gospel and our freedom as followers to call on the power of Christ. Jesus' language about cutting off hands

and feet is pretty strong, but as usual the Lord is exaggerating to make a point. He wants the disciples to grasp the sheer purity of God. God is so holy, so true and so just that he simply cannot tolerate anything less than holiness, truth and justice. That wouldn't leave us with much of a look in, were it not for the cross. It's easy to blame the shame, brutality and anguish of Christ's death on those who tortured and executed him. It's much harder to see that they are all part of what it cost to take away our sin.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

As we think of the agony of the cross Lord we pray

- for those who are dismissive or mocking about the power and consequences of sin
- for those who seem unmoved by the havoc sin brings to other people's lives
- for those who disregard Christ's suffering and dismiss the mercy it won for us

Father, at the cross of Calvary you show me how far short of your glory I fall. When I am tempted to be casual or off hand about my need of your forgiveness, take me back there. Amen

## **Doing:**

Tuesday, 24 November 2015