

Drastic Measures

If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. ~ Matthew 18:8

Discover the Context Matthew 18:1-20



What elements of your life do not bring honor to Christ? Are you prepared to take drastic measures to change? What does your commitment to action or inaction say about your passion for Christ?



Spend several minutes today in prayer meditating on the cross. Consider the immense sacrifice it was for Christ. Thank Him for the drastic measure that He took to pay the price for your sin.



What is the wise and proper way to communicate to others any drastic measures that God is calling you to? How can you seek the help of believers to hold you accountable?—Guard against complacency. How can you share with unbelievers your love for Jesus?—Guard against self-righteousness.

I have a passion for sweets. After every meal I want something sugary. While this may not seem like such a big deal, it is when you are trying to lose weight. Sugar needed to become an occasional treat—not an every meal addiction. So I became determined to cut way down.

I asked my wife the difficult question. “Honey, would you stop making so many delicious desserts?” I knew I was weak, and I knew the success of my diet was going to require drastic measures. We needed to get the stuff out of the house.

We did, and not only did I lose weight, when I did have the occasional dessert, it tasted so much better (a real treat). I no longer felt the need to follow up every meal with dessert.

There are elements of our lives that do not bring honor to Christ. What are some of yours? How are you going to remove these areas from your life with God’s help, the help of Christian brothers and sisters, and the help of your parents? It’s time for drastic measures.

Matthew explains this in today’s verse. We need to be so passionate for Christ that we are willing to do whatever is necessary to follow Him. The problem is our pride. We try to fool ourselves into believing that we can overcome sin on our own. Not only that, but we also believe that we do not need to change our lifestyle, or who we hang around with, to do it. One of the speakers at Fellowship of Christian Athletes events says, “Show me who you hang around with, and I’ll tell you who you will become.”

What is an area of your life that is keeping you from growing in your walk with the Lord? Cut it off! Let the Lord be your master, not sin. Jesus Christ’s death on the cross was a drastic measure needed to pay the price for our sin. If He cared that much for us, let’s take drastic measures in order to draw closer to Him. [SAM]