

Mrk33 – **We Still Don't Get It – Mark 9:30-41**

Just **back in Ch 8** – we did **3 msgqs**  
**along the lines** of the **Disciples NOT GETTING IT**

& I **kinda feel bad** about **doing another one**

**But** - there **REALLY IS** - an **important truth** – in this **idea**

**Because** – **We** have a **Tendency** – to **Really THINK** we “**Get it**”  
We **tend** to **think** - We **really Understand**

But **often** - **We DON'T GET** - **What** Jesus is **DOING**

& often - **We DON'T GET** - **What** Jesus is **trying to TEACH us**

& that **Initial Acknowledgement**

**Goes a Long Way - In Us GETTING IT**

**In Fact** – **Knowing** that We **INITIALLY - DON'T GET IT**  
Is **what puts** us on **The Road** – **TO GETTING IT**

The **only thing** we Really **DON'T WANT**  
in our **Life** with **the Lord**

Is to **THINK** we **GET IT**  
**When** we Really **DON'T GET IT**

**Do You Get It?**

**Let's Pray**

---

---

We left Jesus and the Disciples Last msg  
with The Disciple's Faith being Challenged

Which was a fun msg  
I'd encourage you to take a listen

---

& in that last msg - The Disciples are RATTLED  
from their Faith being Challenged

& so we pick up today – in Mark 9:30-31 (NLT)

**30 Leaving that region** (Caesarea Philippi & Mt of Transfiguration), **they traveled through Galilee** (which is the natural direction you'd go). **Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was there**, (travelin the back roads, trying to lay low)  
**31 for** (because) **he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them . . .**

& then (end of v.31) Jesus says to his disciples

what he had already  
made perfectly clear to them – a few msg's back

Mark 9:31(b) (NLT)

**31 . . . He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead."**

Now today – we understand WHY Jesus came  
We understand this was his ultimate goal

**But the Disciples – at this point - STILL DIDN'T GET IT**

**Even tho Jesus had just made this clear to them  
in the Previous Chapter**

---

---

**But – here's the deal – the Disciples DIDN'T GET IT  
Because they DIDN'T WANT TO GET IT**

**That was NOT what they wanted to hear  
& That was NOT in their Plan**

**& so – (it seems) in some Sub-Conscious way  
The Disciples CHOSE - NOT TO GET IT**

---

---

**But really – haven't WE DONE That Same Thing?**

**At some time – in some way  
Maybe we've "Chosen" TO NOT GET IT**

**When the Lord has Spoken Clearly to us  
About some area of our lives**

**That's the Disciples in Mark 9:32 (NLT)**

***32 They didn't understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant.***

**They were afraid to ask him what he meant  
Because He had already clearly TOLD them before**

**The Disciples Didn't GET THIS  
Because they Didn't WANT TO GET THIS**

**Remember – The Acknowledgement – that we Don't Get It  
Is the Beginning of us being able - To Actually Get It**

---

---

**Moving on to the 2<sup>nd</sup> “Still Not Getting it”**

**Mark 9:33-34 (NLT)**

***33 After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, “What were you discussing out on the road?”***

***34 But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest.***

The **Disciples** are Really **NOT GETTING IT** here, **Right?**

***They're arguing about which of them was the greatest??***

**Seriously – *have you guys ever  
been around Jesus - even for ONE DAY?***

---

---

Can **imagine Peter**, **James**, & **John** saying, ***“Well, it's obviously one of us, right, we're the inner three”***

Then **Peter** says, ***“come on guys – you know I'm gonna be the Pope, so get over it”***

& **John** saying, ***“well, I'm his best friend”***

& the rest of the disciples saying,  
*“those suck-ups, they think they’re all that  
cause they get to hang around with Jesus more than us”*

Oh man – you can just hear – SO MUCH of  
What’s Wrong with Man Running God’s Church

Right there in that conversation

---

---

I could tell you stories of political maneuvering

& how people climb to the top  
in growing church organizations

But if I did tell you

the Hillary Clinton of Mega-Churches  
might see to it - that I had *“An Unfortunate Accident”*

---

---

I WILL tell you - This type of  
“Positioning for Power”

Leads to the destruction of many a church  
& many a church leader

& - for me personally  
it has NOT been easy – to Survive

---

---

But - Jesus gives us the answer to this tragedy – right here  
And We STILL DON'T GET IT

Here's the answer – straight from the Lord

### Mark 9:35 (NLT)

**35 He (Jesus) sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else."**

Now – the funny thing is – Our Sin Nature  
tends to even - turn this statement around

& we say – ***"Ok, well, I definitely want to be FIRST,  
so if I HAVE to serve, in order to be first,  
I guess that's what I have to do - to get to the top"***

---

Maybe Jesus KNEW

that we wouldn't really GET that statement

& so he gives us a "Living Example" to help

### Mark 9:36-37 (NLT)

**36 Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them,**

**37 "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me."**

Interestingly (so I've read) - *in the Aramaic language, which Jesus spoke, child and servant were the same word*

& that's important – because Children were seen  
as the LEAST Significant people in Society

They were the Weakest  
& they had the Least to offer

in regard to climbing the social or religious ladder

---

& so – Jesus is clearly saying  
those who would be FIRST in His Estimation

Are those who would RECEIVE, WELCOME,  
& GIVE ATTENTION TO

The Least  
The Weakest  
& The Most Insignificant people . . .

those who have no ability to help you  
*“Climb Your Way to the Top”*

---

I hate to break it to you – but often

When someone is trying to Climb  
to the top of a Religious Organization

This is NOT their plan  
to make it to the top

**Because our Flesh - & our Sin Nature  
Get in the way  
& . . . we STILL DON'T GET IT**

---

---

So – **there's 2 events** where the **Disciples** – **Still Didn't Get IT**  
& we **still** have **one more** to **go**

**Maybe** in **Response**  
to the **Previous TWO EVENTS**

**It seems** like The **Apostle John**  
**Tries** to **Change the Subject**

**But** – **Maybe** what he **was doing**  
**was actually Confessing**

**That there** was an **event** – where **HE DIDN'T GET IT**

**Mark 9:38 (NLT)**

***38 John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn't in our group."***

**I LOVE** the **NLT** translation **here**  
**because he wasn't in our group**

**This is** – the **Original Disciples**

**Operating** in **PURE Jealousy** & **Cliquish-ness**



**We saw someone doing good**

But we **told** him to **STOP**  
***Because he wasn't in OUR Group***

**Wow – that sounds like some  
messed-up *religious denominationalism***

**What's funny is – this guy – who wasn't  
part of the "*In-Group*" of Disciples**

Was **doing exactly** what the **Disciples *could NOT do***  
**in our last message (casting out a demon)**

---

**But – the Disciples weren't the First  
To have this problem**

**Back in Numbers Ch 11**

**Joshua was told - Two men were *Prophesying*  
who had *NOT been* with Moses in the Lord's Presence**

& in **Numbers 11:28** **Joshua** says to **Moses**  
***"Make them STOP"***

**To which Moses replied in Numbers 11:29 (NLT)**  
***29 But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit upon them all!"***

---

When the Disciples of John the Baptist saw Jesus  
baptizing people on the other side of the Jordan river

they said to John the Baptist John 3:26 (NLT)

*26 . . . the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us.”*

To Which John the Baptist spoke the famous words of

John 3:30 (ESV)

*30 He must increase, but I must decrease.”*

The point is - there have always been people

Who think they are “On the Inside”

Spiritually or Religiously - & want to keep it that way

---

---

But Jesus is about to SAY

It is Not WHAT GROUP you Belong to

It is WHAT PERSON you Belong to

It is NOT what

Denomination or Movement or Church

you Belong to

It is what PERSON you Belong To

The Disciples **DIDN'T GET THAT**

& **there** are **still plenty** of **people** today  
who **DON'T GET THAT**

---

& so - **Here** is **Jesus' Response**

to **Our Tendency**  
to **FORM** Religious '**CLIQUES**'

**Mark 9:39-41 (NLT)**

**39 "Don't stop him!" Jesus said. "No one who performs a miracle in my name (it's about the person) *will soon be able to speak evil of me.***

**40 Anyone who is not against us is for us.**

**41 If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah (again about the person), *I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded.***

**It's about Belonging to JESUS**

Not a **Particular Group**

or a **Denomination**

or an **Insiders Club**

**It's about** Operating "**In The Name of Jesus**"  
& **it's about** "**Jesus Being Glorified**"

**Amen?**

---

So – Let's Review

In our 1<sup>st</sup> Section today

The Disciples DIDN'T GET

What Jesus was saying  
about his Ultimate Goal

& His Ultimate Purpose  
for being on Earth

& they *DIDN'T GET IT*

Because it Didn't Match

What they Wanted His Goal and Purpose to be

---

In our 2<sup>nd</sup> Section today

The Disciples DIDN'T GET

that Serving & Ministering with Jesus

was Not a Climb  
to the Top of some Achievement Ladder

& they *DIDN'T GET IT*

Because it is the Natural Flesh Response

to want to be First – to want to be at the Top

---

In our 3<sup>rd</sup> section today

The Disciples *DIDN'T GET*

That they  
didn't have *something special*

because they were part of a CERTAIN GROUP

They had *something special*

Because they were Identified  
with a CERTAIN PERSON – JESUS

---

& so – after ANOTHER Series of verses  
On the Disciples “*Not Getting It*”

This is the Lesson for me

Maybe there are some things  
That - WE are not getting – *Either*

Maybe there are some areas in our lives

That we need to Allow Jesus  
to TRANSFORM our thinking in

---

& here – is what I believe is **Absolutely REQUIRED**

before a person can begin the road  
to **REAL Transformation** – BY the Word of God

<p><u>The Acknowledgement</u> – that we <u><b>DON'T GET IT</b></u> <u>Is</u> the <u>Beginning</u> of us <u>being able</u> - To <u><b>ACTUALLY GET IT</b></u></p>
--

We've got to **Come to Jesus**  
with Open Hands - & Open Arms

& be willing to say,  
*“Lord Jesus, I know I **DON'T GET IT**  
Please Fill me with your **HOLY SPIRIT**,  
& Speak to me thru your **WORD**,  
so that I **CAN GET IT**”*

---

---

& By the way  
it was **NOT UNTIL** the **Day of Pentecost**

when the **Holy Spirit**  
was **poured out** on **these Disciples**

that **they finally,** & **completely** – **GOT IT**

---

---

→ → →

& so – My biggest Practical Encouragement to us is

PRAY Every day – that the Lord Jesus would Fill you,  
& Continue to Fill you – with His Holy Spirit

---

& If we will Be  
Continually Filled with the Holy Spirit

& if we will Be committed  
To Hearing & Receiving the Word of God

Then we will BE ABLE

To BEGIN to go - From NOT GETTING IT  
TO GETTING IT

Let's Pray