

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Mark 9:30-50

Pastor Jän Teaching

Mark 9:30-37 ³⁰ They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." ³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it. ³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. ³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." ³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples (vv. 30-31): At this point, Jesus begins to focus more intensely on training his disciples. This might be equivalent to a small group study or a seminary class.

The point here is that disciples need more than the meeting of the multitudes.

They will kill him, and after three days he will rise...But they did not understand...were afraid to ask (vv. 31-32) This situation probably comes under the heading of "blocking out uncomfortable information." At least the disciples have stopped correcting Jesus about his messianic mission.

What were you arguing about...they kept quiet because...argued about who was the greatest (v. 34): It is obvious from this verse that the disciples had not grasped who Jesus was nor what his mission was.

The servant of all (v. 35): While this is a kingdom principle it also points to Jesus as the "first" and greatest.

Philippians 2:6-8 ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the **very nature of a servant**, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me (v. 37): This simple statement teaches us that Christians must be profoundly pro-life and give great attention to ministry to children.

Matthew 19:13-14 (KJV) Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 9:38-41 "Teacher," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us." ³⁹ "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰ for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

We told him to stop, because he was not one of us (v. 38): Here we have a classic example of the Christian tendency of "We four and no more" (or "You can't do that, you are not one of us!). Jesus had a more grace-based attitude.

For no one who does a miracle in my name (v. 39): We should understand that the miracle power is in the name of Jesus and not the human using His name.

For whoever is not against us is for us (v. 40): My guess is that modern believers—living in an anti-Christian era—are beginning to see how this is statement by the Master is very true.

Anyone who gives you a cup of water...will...not lose their reward (v. 41): This means that there is a blessing attached to assisting the work of Christ through his people.

Mark 9:42-50 ⁴² "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. ⁴⁴ ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁶ ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where "the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched. ⁴⁹ Everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves and be at peace with each other."

Anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble (v. 42): This is a severe warning to those in leadership to—at all costs—avoid causing "little ones" (children and new believers) to sin.

There is a lot of this happening today.

If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off (v. 43): Jews used hyperbole to make a point. Jesus is saying, if necessary, take radical measures to deal with your sin problems.

Hell, where "the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched (vv. 47-48): There are actually two points here: 1) persistent and unrepentant sin can keep people out of heaven; and 2) hell is a horrible reality.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Everyone will be salted with fire (v. 49): Salt was a purifying agent. Jesus is saying that God's judgment will ultimately cleanse all sin from heaven. This is the purgation of all the unholy.

Revelation 21:27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Have salt among yourselves and be at peace with each other (v. 50): Jesus asks of his disciples that they "spur one another" on to love and good works.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.