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## Meeting the Messiah

### All For One, One For All

### Mark 9:38-41

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*Week 38*  
*September 28, 2025*

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#### LIFE LESSON:

**Do what you can do for the Kingdom no matter how great or small it may be in the world's eyes and pray for others that have different roles and different methods than you do.**

#### I. V. 38

It is hard to see people who don't seem to have the same teaching as we have or that may not hold to the exact same beliefs that we hold doing the work of God. There are some doctrines that we need not stray from or tolerate when taught. An example of that would be the doctrine of salvation by faith in Christ alone or that Jesus is coming back and that He is God in the flesh. But there are other areas that we may disagree on that are not as crucial to salvation such as when Presbyterians baptize infants to bring them into the community of believers. There is not a baptism of salvation as the Catholics do but only brings them under the umbrella of the family of believers in their church. It is not too much unlike our baby dedication that we do each year. We sometimes get suspicious of whether they can do certain ministries or if they have the proper motives. John saw something like this in today's passage. The apostles were about to find out that the Kingdom of God was bigger than the context they were in. Philippians 1:15-18 says, "To be sure, some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of good will. <sup>16</sup> These preach out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; <sup>17</sup> the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, thinking that they will cause me trouble in my imprisonment. <sup>18</sup> What does it matter? Only that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice..."

John wanted to stop him from doing the casting out of demons and when he couldn't he went to Jesus. It

seems that he was not snitching on the man only trying to find out what Jesus thought of the situation. When we are in doubt about how ministries should be done it is good to go to God's Word to find the truth so that our suspicions can be satisfied.

## **II.     VV. 39-40**

Jesus points out that there is no one who is sincerely doing His work that will soon turn against Him. There are those who may do things differently than we do and come from different backgrounds but if they are following God's Word and their motives are correct then God will be honored, and we should be accepting of that. If the people are genuinely serving Jesus, then they are as much a part of His "team" as any one of us.

Eternity is a scary subject to deal with. We want to know that God's work is being done correctly. Just remember that God's work is being done around the world by people in different cultures and may interpret certain passages of scripture differently than we do. This does not mean that they are wrong or should wait for people who are better trained to do what needs to be done. It could be that we need to check and make sure that we have it right. Also, the Kingdom grows more by people who are doing the work of the gospel, whether they are properly educated or not and whether they are of the same denomination we are or not, than by people who may have all the knowledge that theology offers and sits on it and never applies it. We can trust that the Holy Spirit can guide others to do what we know we ought to be doing. If the people are followers of Jesus, then they can be empowered to do the work He called them to do.

There is no middle ground when it comes to following Jesus. You are either with Him or against Him. This is why so many other religions cannot be legitimized because they see Jesus as a good teacher, a moral leader or a prophet but if they do not accept Him as Lord then they are against Him. (Also, He cannot be a good teacher if He is not God's Son or that He and the Father are one because that would mean He is a liar and not a good teacher or moral leader.)

### III. V. 41

At times we can watch the news and see all the problems in the world from natural disasters, war, and starvation and feel overwhelmed at all the need we as Christians want to fulfill. We walk in our church each Sunday and see many great people who love each other and love Jesus. But it doesn't take long after the service ends for us to get out into our communities and see spiritual and physical needs right down the road from our house that are too much for us to handle. How do we rescue a nation that is being overtaken by warlords? How do we put food in the stomachs of starving children day after day all over the world? When thousands are displaced because of floods, how are we supposed to supply shelter for them? When we see great need in our own community, how do we fill all of them? All of this can be overwhelming.

But let's look at what Jesus says in verse 41. Not only are those who are casting out demons in Jesus' name be rewarded, but also those who do nothing more than give a cup of cold water to someone. You may not ever be on a stage or in a position to make radical policy or world changes but any of us can offer someone a cold glass of water. There is no such thing as insignificant work for the Kingdom of God. When you show an act of love toward someone that God loves, then you are pleasing Him and may be making powerful changes to the person's spiritual life as well. Romans 2:4 says, "Or do you despise the riches of his kindness, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?" Our acts of kindness, no matter how small they may seem, could be the final piece of the puzzle that someone needs to look to Jesus and call on Him for salvation. Serving others keeps our eyes off ourselves and puts them on the needs of others and the glory of God. Anything we do for others is as if we are doing them for God Himself. Matthew 25:37-40 reads, "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or without clothes and clothe you?' <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?' <sup>40</sup> "And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

## **PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

- 1. What are some reasons that someone might get nervous when people from other denominations are doing God's work in your neighborhood?**
- 2. How can we suggest that pastoring a church of thousands and raking the yard of a neighbor who is sick both glorify God the same?**
- 3. Can you commit to praying for the workers all over the world that may be doing things a little different than you and who may believe some things about God differently than you do?**
- 4. If giving a glass of cold water in Jesus' name is rewarded by God, what is something you can do this week for someone for God's glory?**

Whether you are on the mission field feeding the masses, leading a church of thousands pastoring a church of twenty-five people, it is how and why you do it that matters. We can all play a role in the Kingdom of God, but it is not ours alone to play. There are others who participate from all over the world that are doing God's work as well. Our role is to be obedient in what we can do and pray for workers all over the world as we realize that we are in this together.

## **COMMENTARY USED:**

Ryle, J. C. Expository Thoughts on the Gospel of Mark: A Commentary [Updated] (p. 128). Aneko Press. Kindle Edition.