

## Life Group Questions - Mark 9: Glory Blockers

### UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

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1. *Main Idea of the Passage:* Glory and Death
2. *How the main idea is developed:* Jesus makes it clear that the lordship of SELF, and the pride and competitiveness that flows from it, get in the way of seeing and experiencing His glory. Jesus gives us seven truths that counteract the power of SELF.
3. *Melodic Line:* Repent and Believe in the Good News that Jesus is the Suffering Servant King, the Glorious Savior.

### Outline

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1. The epicenter of the blockage
2. 7 SELF-denying crosses to bear
3. Glory (vv. 1-13)

### Gospel Centrality

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1. Jesus, our exalted, glorious King, had to go through the cross to get his crown.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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#### Warming Up

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1. What has been one way the Lord has challenged you to grow thus far in the series?

#### Letting the Text Shape our Framework

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1. The epicenter of the blockage (vv. 33-34)
  - A. In this moment, although just seeing Jesus' glory, the disciples continued on with their lives unchanged because they were living merely in a "Crown-Only" story.
    - i. What does the say about mankind?
    - ii. How might your life be similar to the disciples' here?
    - iii. How do we grow, both individually and as a group to bear our cross until we receive the crown?
2. 7 SELF-denying crosses to bear
  - A. #1 - Serve Jesus in total dependence by prayer every time you encounter a need, rather than banking on past success and personal giftedness (14-29)
    - i. Where is there "downforce" in your life? How is this helping you utilize your strengths for the Kingdom?
    - ii. Have you ever asked Jesus to *help your unbelief*?
  - B. #2 - In order to be first, you must seek the position of last (vv. 35-37)
    - i. How is this challenge of humility one filled with promise?
  - C. #3 - Don't let elitism and personal traditions get in the way of supporting and partnering with other Christians (38-40).
    - i. In what ways are denominations helpful or hurtful to the Church?
  - D. #4 - Remember that glory is often in the little acts of love between believers (41).

- i. In what ways does this verse sum up the duty of Christians to one another?
- E. #5 - Be mindful of how your life will affect younger believers (42).
  - i. What are some of the major concerns with the “next generation” with Christianity and the Church?
- F. #6 - Offload anything in your life that is getting in the way of you running hard after Jesus (43-48).
  - i. How much of “denying self” is empowered by “self-denying actions?” How can you put this principle into action this week?
- G. #7 - Finally, and foundationally, make peace with the fact that the Cross comes before the Crown (49-50).
  - i. Why, like many, are not at peace with this?

### Traveling Through the Cross

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1. Mark 8:34-35 - “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

### Applying This Passage to our Lives

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1. Be at peace... but figure out how to get there... the cross.
  1. What is “**one**” action you will commit to, both individually and as a group, to bear your cross this week?