

The Gospel of Mark – The Error of Exclusivity

Mark 9:38-41 June 14, 2026

Do you desire to live your life “IN JESUS NAME?”

In Jesus’ name (For God’s glory and in accordance with God’s will)

Prayers & actions

We cannot vending-machine the Bible.

I’ll take John 3:16, please. But not Mark 9 last of all, servant of all, associating with the forgettable, acts of faith, and the coming accountability and judgment of hell.

Part 2 of; This closed door conversation with Jesus

1. Servant of all – Humility
2. Exclusivity
3. The seriousness of our sin and stumbling other people – **eternal accountability**

The Confession Question (38)

The Instruction – Don’t do that

The Insight – Actions over associations

READ MARK 9:38-41

The Confession Question (38)

Remember, they are still in the same city of Capernaum, in the same house, just heard the last of all and greatest of all teaching... uh oh.

John answered (responded)

Still talking about who would be the greatest of all

Still talking about being last of all (**not self-promoting**)

Still talking about being servant of all (**above no one, and no thing**)

Still talking about recognizing the unrecognizable, the overlooked, the missed

John pipes up... not Peter? Well, remember, eventually known for his love but originally known as one of the fiery sons of thunder wanting to call down judgment on an entire town.

(The son of thunder was turning into the apostle of love)

We saw someone... (The who doesn’t matter.)

Some will tell you that the power of God was only upon the 12 apostles.

While it may have been uniquely upon, it was not and is not only upon.

Well, John, what did you guys do?

All eyes on you

(The other disciples’ wide eyes, you’re throwing us all under the bus?)

We forbade him: We hindered him, to withhold a thing, to deny or refuse

These guys are often getting in the way of what God is doing.

Like putting a broomstick in someone’s spokes.

Outside of our circle

Man on an island, that's the church I used to go to.

Calvary's may be the best, but does that make us better?

They are in one of those denomination churches

They had a different church sticker on their car

Heaven will not have seating by denomination

In your name (For your glory and in accordance to your will)

The problem was not the "non-disciple casting out demons."

The problem was the arrogance and exclusivity of John – titles mess people up.

Missions better, cultural political better, more studious, etc.

John puts himself on the same level as Jesus

- 2x "does not follow "us" (vs. 38)

- Well, does he "follow" Jesus – Is he in line with Jesus' theology and life?

The only thing worse than factions between churches, factions within churches.

Are you about "us" or are you about "Him"

This is not a flaw within the disciples, this is a sin within humanity.

- Priscilla & Aquilla, Apollos

- Echoed in the NT, desire spiritual gifts, especially that you would prophesy

The Instruction (39) – Don't do that

He is on our side – *Can't you recognize your own brother?*

You think he is going to do this wondrous work, give me the credit and glory, and then undo it all?

Chuck Swindoll: It is a curious fact that jealousy is often found among professionals. The gifted and the highly competent, you know, doctors, singers, artists, lawyers, businessmen, and women, authors, entertainers, preachers, educators, politicians, and all public figures. Strange isn't it that such capable folk find it nearly impossible to applaud others in their own field who excel a shade or two more than they. Jealousy fangs may be hidden, but take care when the creature coils, no matter how cultured and dignified it may appear.

Contemporary vs. Hymns of old, you think your brother and sisters being machinegunned down in Africa care? You think the hidden churches in China care? You think the chaplains who 1 in 5.6 die per year care?

The Insight (40-41) – Actions over associations

(41) The starting line, foundation, root of it all.

Jesus cares about a cup of water... don't think smaller of what you do than Jesus does.

Lowers the bar and widens the draft

From John's "someone" to Jesus' "whoever."

Whoever (more open than the apostles were aware of)

You get to fill a unique role, but you are not the only people who matter.

The staff, not more valuable, just more available

There are no distinctions between trivial and important tasks. There is only faith and obedience, shown in devotion to Jesus. – William Lane

JESUS LOWERS THE BAR... TO THE FLOOR

Cup of water or casting out demons (comparably)

Q: What is more impressive? Demons

Q: What is more important? Neither

IN MY NAME!

Clean up someone's yard – when someone asks why, Jesus cleaned up my life. Cup of water, I got you. Why? Jesus refreshes my soul every day, a cup of water... not because I am nice, because God is kind to me. I am just paying it forward.

If I gave you a million dollars and told you to give half of it away to whomever you wanted, as you did, people were saying thank you, how awesome, I can't believe you are doing this. Oh no problem, honestly. Someone gave me more than I could have ever asked for so turning around and give away freely what I freely was given. **I'm not the hero, GOD IS!**

Matthew 10:7-8 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. *Freely you have received, freely give.*

HE WILL BY NO MEANS LOSE HIS REWARD

Eternal rewards await that saint.

Crown of righteousness

Crown of life

1 Cor. 3:11-12

Your forgettable acts will be remembered in heaven.

You have forgotten things done to you or for you, honestly, you have forgotten things done by you. **Surprise blessings waiting for you in heaven.**

If you are getting nervous or fearful that we are getting soft on sin, wait until next week.