

"Issues, etc."

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: What is the "greatest issue" mankind has? Like root cause?

Q: What's the effects of this on mankind, society, people, families, etc.?

NOTICE: In Chapter 9, we have the Transfiguration, the healing of a boy with a demon, the foretelling of Jesus' death and resurrection, THEN....Jesus deals with our "issue". These seem somewhat "random", but there's a point to all of it. Today we'll step back and hopefully get a "bigger picture" about the "issues" but also about the solution!

Table Time...

READ: Mark 9:30-32 "They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." ³² But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him."

Q: What sticks out to you in this brief section?

Q: What does Jesus (again) "teach" the disciples in verse 31?

Q: What's the disciple's reaction?

READ: Mark 9:33-37 "And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵ And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

Q: What sticks out to you in THIS passage?

Q: What does the disciples "silence" tell you about them?

Q: In verse 37, how does Jesus "identify" with children? What does this tell us about Jesus, "who" HE thinks is "important" and what does this say about God?

READ: Mark 9:38-41 "John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us."
³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ For the one who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward. "

Q: What does John's questions about this person who was casting out demons say about their understanding of God's Kingdom?

Q: Have you ever seen things be about "us and them"?

Q: What does Jesus' response in verse 39-41 teach us?

Q: What does verse 41, mean?

Q: How does Jesus' reactions help the disciples deal with verses 33-37 above?

Big Group Debrief....

READ: Mark 9: 42-50 "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁹ For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Q: What's Jesus' attitude towards children "who believe in Him"?

Q: Why is it important for US to focus on and stand for our children?