

THE GOSPEL OF
MARK®
servant **KING**

CHAPTER 9, PART 2

Verses 30-50

TRUE GREATNESS

Eventually, Jesus is on His journey to Jerusalem and then to the cross. So far, He taught His disciples many lessons, but He has so many more truths to teach them and us. In this lesson, we learn God defines true greatness much different than the world. Jesus teaches His disciples and us true greatness is not found in human achievements but only in total humble surrender to Jesus. We must come to Jesus and walk with Him in childlike faith and humility. Jesus calls us to have His heart toward others.

MEMORY VERSE

And He sat down and called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." Mark 9:35

Read Mark 9:30-50. Jesus gave His disciples and us many lessons in these verses; what thought or lesson was new to you?

1. As Jesus departed and passed through Galilee, what did He once again teach His disciples (vv.30-31)? How does Luke state Jesus's words (See Luke 9:44)?
2. Had Jesus taught the disciples this same truth before now? For review, refer back to Mark 8:31; Matthew 16:21, 17:21-23; and Luke 9:22.

3. How does Mark 9:31 differ from Mark 8:31? Judas was among the disciples during these teachings, and Jesus knew His betrayer when He selected the twelve Apostles in Mark 3:13-19. Read John 6:38; what struck you about Jesus's resolve in facing the betrayal to come?
4. Why didn't the disciples understand, and why didn't they ask Jesus about His teaching (v.32)? (Also see Luke 9:45.)

Matthew Henry wrote: "But it is observable that when Christ spoke of His death, He always spoke of His resurrection... the words were plain enough, but they could not be reconciled to the thing."

PERSONAL

Do you have times where you just don't understand what God is doing in our world? Or in your life? Where do you go for your answers to this dilemma? Look up Isaiah 55:8 for comfort. How does this verse help you?

WHO IS THE GREATEST?

What were the disciples doing as they traveled along the road to Capernaum? When did Jesus ask them about it? How did they answer Jesus? What had they been disputing (vv.33-34)? (Also see Luke 9:46-47; Matt. 18:1.)

DID YOU KNOW?

This is the last time Jesus returned to Capernaum. The house may have been Peter's.

5. Jesus sat down with the twelve and began to refocus their minds and thoughts. What did He say to the them (v.35)? (Also see Matt. 18:4.)

6. Look up the definition for “servant.” How is the godly principle that Jesus is teaching the opposite of our world view? What does a true servant look like? (Also see Luke 22:24-27.)

<p>DID YOU KNOW? Sitting down was the posture assumed by a teacher.</p>
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DIG DEEPER

Jesus gives us a perfect example of true servanthood. How does His example speak to you? How will you follow His example? (See John 13:1-20.)

7. What does Jesus use to teach on honor and humility (vv.36-37)? (See Matthew 18:4.)

Use Luke 9:48 to fill in the blanks: “Whoever _____ one of these little _____ in My _____ receives _____; and whoever _____ Me, receives not Me, but _____ who _____.” What encouragement does

Jesus set a child before the disciples and explained that the way to be first is to be last, and the way to be last is to be a servant of all.

Warren Wiersbe wrote: “True humility means knowing yourself, accepting yourself, being yourself, *your best self*, and giving of yourself for others... Christ’s message is that greatness comes from serving others. Since the word *child* and *servant* are the same in the Aramaic language, it is easy to see why Jesus connected the two. If we have the heart of a child we will have very little difficulty being servants.”

JESUS FORBIDS SECTARIANISM

8. Jesus continues correcting the disciples of their wrong thinking. What was John's concern that he brought to Jesus (v.38)?

9. How did Jesus correct their thinking? In whose name was this person casting out demons (v.39)? (See Luke 9:50.)

10. What are some examples of things you've heard people say, or said yourself, that demonstrate a wrongful exclusiveness in the Body of Christ? How can we have this same wrong attitude toward other believers in the body of Christ? What should be our response instead? (See Numbers 11:25-29 and Philippians 1:18.)

Jesus followers will not all resemble each other or belong to the same groups. People who are on Jesus's side have the same goal of building up the Kingdom of God, and they should not let their differences interfere with that goal. Those with common faith in Christ should cooperate. People do not have to be just like us to be following Jesus with us.

11. Compare Mark 9:40 with Matthew 12:30. According to these verses, is it possible to be neutral or indifferent toward Jesus?

PERSONAL

No decision is a decision when it comes to your relationship with Jesus Christ. Have you decided to follow Jesus? Have you given your life to Him? Are you born again? See John 3:4-20 and share your testimony with someone today how you have decided to walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

12. How does Jesus describe the importance of serving Him with even just a cup of cold water (v.41)? (See Matthew 10:42.)

13. What specific details does Matthew give us as we serve Him? See Matthew 25:35-46.

When we share just a cup of water, we are serving Jesus and that is the highest service in the world.

Warren Wiersbe

JESUS WARNS OF OFFENSES (Mark 9:42-48)

14. What warning did Jesus give His disciples on the dangers of causing little ones in the faith to stumble in their walk with Him (v.42)? What do you learn from Romans 14:12-13?

15. What must be our motive in serving Jesus so we do not stumble others? (See 1 Corinthians 13:3-13; 2 Corinthians 5:14a.)

16. Jesus now begins to teach the destructive and seriousness of sin in a believer's life (vv.43-47). This is a very solemn warning. Sin comes from the heart (Mark 7:20-23). Whatever sin we allow in our lives must be cut out as if we were having surgery.

a. How can your hand cause you to sin?

b. Where do your feet take you that causes you to sin?

c. What about your eye? What do you look at that can cause you to sin?

PERSONAL

Matthew Henry wrote: “Self must be denied, that it may not be destroyed.” Are you willing to take the drastic measures to cut these sins out of your life no matter the cost to yourself?

17. How does Mark describe hell (vv.43-48)? How does John later on describe it in Revelation 20:10?

“This is the only place where Mark used the Greek word for hell – *Gebenna*. The imagery for hell developed from the Hinnom Valley southwest of Jerusalem. This valley was used for pagan human sacrifice, (2 Kings 16:3; 21:6; Jeremiah 7:31), and as a garbage dump, hence the association with unquenchable fire and perpetual rot (their worm does not die).”

18. What Scripture does Jesus repeat three times in this passage (v.43)? (Also see Isaiah 66:24.) None of Jesus’s words were wasted; what is the importance of His repeating this warning three times?

Pastor John Randall said this passage speaks of the eternal consequences of the decisions the unbeliever has made, and the eternal darkness, fire and torment of hell that was made for Satan and his subjects (Paraphrased).

PERSONAL

It has been said that Jesus spoke about hell more than heaven. Hell is a place of real torment and righteous punishment. No one would ever want to end up there. Read Luke 16:19-31 to get a clear description of what it is like in hell. Who do you need to tell about the reality of an eternal hell, which is eternal separation from God?

Warren Wiersbe wrote that it is essential for sinners to trust Jesus Christ and be delivered from eternal hell. It is also essential for believers to get the message out to a lost world!

TASTELESS SALT IS WORTHLESS

19. Jesus speaks of seasoning. What does He mean when he says seasoned with fire (v.49a)? (See 1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:12-19.)

20. What does Jesus teach about every sacrifice (v49b)?

21. Salt speaks of purity and preservation. In Leviticus 2:11, the Jews were instructed not to use leaven or honey when offering their sacrifices. However, in Leviticus 2:13, what were they instructed to use?

DID YOU KNOW?
A “covenant of salt”
(Numbers 18:19 and
2 Chronicles 13:5),
was a covenant of
perpetual obligation.
M.G. Easton

22. Who does Jesus say the believer is? See Matthew 5:13. What are some of the benefits of salt? What is the warning Jesus gives? How could we lose our flavor?

DWELL ON THIS

“But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you. To him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (Peter 5:10-11).

