

REDEFINING

VILLAGE CHURCH

MARK

GREATNESS

CHAPTERS 6-10

MARK 9:30-50 — FOLLOW THE LEADER (2)

This account starts with Jesus second announcement of his coming death & resurrection. And the disciples seem no closer to grasping what Jesus is saying, and what implications it has for them.

1. *What is it people shape their lives around today? What drives their decisions and their aspirations? What drives yours?*

Read Mark 9:30-50.

2. *After Jesus first taught about what was coming for him (8:31-32) he presented the disciples with a paradox (8:34). What did he mean?*
3. *On this second occasion, he gives them another one in 9:35. What's he saying to them? How does it relate to his death?*
4. *Discuss Jesus use of a child to demonstrate his point in 9:36-37?*
5. *What does Jesus connection between welcoming the seemingly "insignificant" and welcoming him teach the disciples about how we are to see others, and how we are to serve others?*

After this, Jesus turns his attention to the disciples misguided protectionist policies in 9:38-41.

6. What is Jesus point here? Again, what's the connection between those Jesus and those invoking his name?

While Jesus is speaking directly to the disciples, rebuking them for believing they have the monopoly on Jesus (and thereby glory), indirectly this section says something to us today.

7. Can we be overly critical of other Christians who do things differently to us? What drives this?

8. When might criticism be justified? When isn't it? How do we find the balance?

In verses 42-48 Jesus drives home to the disciples his priorities, and therefore the priorities of God. They're dreaming of glory, but if you're going to share in God's glory, you need to know where his heart is at.

9. Jesus is using hyperbole, but what's he communicating about priorities, values & what's important?

10. If we are to take Jesus seriously, discuss what it would mean in our lives to implement what he says. What holds us back?

Verses 49-50 comes full circle from where this passage started, pushing the disciples to consider their own pettiness and ambition in the face of Jesus' mission. Here Jesus has two points he makes, both using salt.

11. Jesus first call to the disciples is to be salted with fire (v.49-50a), and not to lose that saltiness. In the Old Testament (Leviticus 2:13) salt was often used to cover sacrifices, as well as for purification (Ezekiel 16:4, 43:24). In light of Jesus looming death, and what he's called the disciples to (Mark 8:34, 10:39) what's he saying to them?

12. The second illustration Jesus has with salt is aimed squarely at the disciples bickering. What does he say to them? (9:50b)

Christian greatness, glory & goals differ because of the person who we follow. How we engage with one another, who we value and why, how we see sin in our lives and how we shape where we're going are all informed by the death & resurrection of Jesus.

13. If you were to look at what you think God wants from you, and then compare this to the goals you've set for your own life, is there a gap?

14. How do we deal with the sin in our lives seriously, while not falling into legalism?