



“The Way of the Kingdom”

September 7, 2025

Mark 9:30-50



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Introduction:

The Kingdom of God grows in ways we can't always understand!

How have you seen the Kingdom of God spread and grow in ways that are contrary to the ways of the world?

Jesus Predicts His Coming Death..Again (Mark 9:30-32):

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, 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.” But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

- This is the second time Jesus talks to his disciples about what He is going to go through (see Mark 8:31-32). What might the word “deliver” imply?
- Why might the disciples have been afraid to ask about what Jesus was sharing?

The Least is the Greatest (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?” But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. 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.” And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

- Jesus knew what they were discussing and what was going on in their hearts. He begins to teach on exactly what they are arguing about!
- Jesus is saying *greatness* in the kingdom of God looks alot different than *greatness* according to the world's standard.
- He is saying if you want to be great.... become a servant. If you want to be first, actually put yourself last!

In Jesus Name (Mark 9:38-41):

“John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons your name,

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In Jesus Name (Mark 9:38-41):

“John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons your name,

and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” 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. For the one who is not against us is for us. 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.

- John interrupts to tell a short story about an incident they had with someone casting out demons in Jesus name!
- Jesus responds “Do not stop Him! - If he is using my name in FAITH, he will not soon be able work against me!
- Are we too quick to “label” and divide?

The Gravity of Sin (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. 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.-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. 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, ‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ For everyone will be salted with fire.-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.”

- Jesus returns to talking about children (possibly also those “young” in the faith). If you cause one of these “little ones” to sin there will be grave consequences.
- Jesus is emphasizing the seriousness of sin, in our own lives, and how we might leads others into sin.
- Jesus is essentially saying *do whatever it takes* to avoid continuing in sin.

What is Sin?

- Sin, apart from Jesus’s work on the cross, separates us from God. Sin is multifaceted, but at its root lies a rebellious heart that doesn’t trust God has our best interests at heart.

The Way of the Kingdom (The Rule and Reign of God):

- The way of the Kingdom is **mysterious**, and we often fail to understand or see things with a kingdom perspective.
- **In the kingdom, suffering isn’t something to avoid, serving others is the way to be great, labeling and dividing isn’t our (first) response and sin is serious.**

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