

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS – p. 30

“Be At Peace with One Another”

Mark 9:33-50

The Gospel

Remember, Mark is divided into three sections –

- The first is the Galilee ministry –
- The third is the Jerusalem experience –
- The middle section is the transition from the Galilee to Jerusalem.

This morning, we are in the middle of the middle section!

-In this middle, transition section, Jesus says on three occasions that they will be going to Jerusalem where He will be rejected and killed, but on the third day rise from the dead – The first time is Mark 8:31-33

-The second time precedes today’s text – Mark 9:30-32

-The third time is Mark 10:32-34

So, the death and resurrection of Jesus is at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of the transition from the Galilee to Jerusalem –

Read Mark 9:33-50

Pray

A Cord of Controversy

I believe there is a cord that binds these three passages together – controversy.

-In the first, “Who is greatest” passage, the disciples are arguing among themselves.

-In the second, “Anyone not against is for us” passage, the disciples are upset that others are doing their work!

-In the third, “Heaven is better than hell” passage, Jesus talks about those who commit offenses against others.

-So, in all three, people are arguing, their upset, their offenses –

-People are not living at peace with one another!

-Notice the last words of verse 50 – “...and be at peace with one another.”

One of the many benefits of the gospel is peace –

-Peace with God, with one another, even peace in our own hearts!

To Experience God’s Peace

1 – Replace pride with humility – vs. 33-37

-v. 33 – *“And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house...”*

-They were in Caesarea Philippi and now stop at Peter’s house, in Capernaum on their way to Jerusalem.

-v. 33b-34 – *“...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.”*

-Their silence to Jesus’ question tells us that self-promotion is shameful and this is self-evidently true.

-As we see this in light of other gospel passages, we can conclude that they are arguing about who will be the greatest in Christ’s kingdom.

-v. 35 – *“And he sat down and called the twelve.”*

-He does this to get their attention, which tells us how important what Jesus is saying really is!

-Think about it –

-If you don’t get what Jesus is about to say, you will never be saved.

-If you don’t get what Jesus is about to say, you will never be happy in your marriage.

-If you don’t get what Jesus is about to say, you will struggle at every level of human relationship.

- v. 35b – *“...And he said to them, ‘If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.’”*
 - With Jesus the way up is first the way down –
 - The pattern Jesus gave us is cross before crown.
 - This has been the wisdom of God from the beginning –
 - Prov. 16:18 – *“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”*
 - Prov. 11:2 – *“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.”*
 - Prov. 29:23 – *“One’s pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.”*
 - Prov. 13:10 – *“Arrogance leads to nothing but strife, but wisdom is gained by those who take advice.”* (CSB)
 - James 4:6b – *“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*
- v. 36 – *“And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms...”*
 - The word for child means small child and can be translated “infant.”
 - And the fact that Jesus takes this small child in His arms tells us that this is a baby.
- v. 36b-37 – *“...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 is saying that His disciples must value that little infant more than they do themselves.
- This attitude is necessary to know God the Father (that’s who sent the Son!) –
 - The first step in being saved is an act of humility –
 - James 4:10 – *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”*
- This is an attitude necessary to have a happy and satisfying marriage – 1 Corinthians 7
- This is an attitude necessary to have a happy and satisfying church –
 - Romans 12:3 – *“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment...”*
- It is so good to see that Jesus wants something good for you –
 - He wants you to be filled – He wants you to be eternally satisfied and joyful!
 - His way to that is not the world’s way – Phil. 2:3-11

2 – Replace envy with gratitude – vs. 38-41

- v. 38 – *“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.’”*
 - It’s interesting that we just had a situation where the disciples were not able to cast a demon out of a young man –
 - Then Mark puts this account in about the disciples upset with someone casting out demons in Jesus’ name, but who is not one of them!
- v. 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.’”*
 - So, while they may not be following the Twelve, he is doing ministry in the name of Jesus.
- vs. 40-41 – *“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.”*
 - Jesus is teaching His disciples two things –
 - One – We get enamored with the magnitude of the work –
 - The magnitude of the work isn’t important – the One in whose name the work is done is what matters!
 - Two – Don’t get competitive and territorial –
- Philippians 1:15-18 - Instead of envy or jealousy – be grateful the name of Jesus is proclaimed.

3 – Fight sin at all costs – vs. 42-50

- We will take an entire message to look deeper at these verses for there is much to discover –
 - Here Jesus stresses the necessity of taking radical measures to fight sin. -vs. 43-47
- John Owen – *“Be killing sin or sin be killing you!”*