

Mark 9:30-50

Discussion Questions

Read Mark 9:30-37

1. How are *you* most tempted to compare yourself with others (to figure out 'who is the greatest')?
2. In verse 35 Jesus says, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."
 - a. How does Jesus demonstrate this in his own life (cf. vv. 9:30-32; 10:45)?
 - b. How does this help us understand what it means to 'deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus'?
 - c. When do you find it hardest to serve others and how does this passage motivate you?

Read Mark 9:37-41

1. Why is it so important to 'receive' other Christians, even if they aren't part of our 'tribe' or clique?
2. How do we do this in practice?
3. Are there any boundaries to who we should recognize as fellow believers?

Read Mark 9:42-40

1. What do these verses say about the attitude we should have towards:
 - a. Other believers and their sin?
 - b. Our own sin and temptation?
2. How does this differ from the way we usually treat ourselves and other people?

Prayer ideas:

Through this passage Jesus is calling us to put others ahead of ourselves rather than put ourselves ahead of others. He has exposed some of the ways we fail to do this.

If you feel comfortable, share about someone you struggle to love and serve. Pray together:

- confessing your sin and asking God for forgiveness.
- giving thanks that Jesus has served us at the cross so we can be forgiven.
- Asking God to help you show Christ-like love to those with whom it's a struggle