



Home Group Notes
Week of March 15, 2026
Mark 9:30-10:31

Up to this point in Mark's Good News, Jesus has focused much on revealing to many who He is and why He has come. Beginning in this section, Jesus' attention is much more on His close disciples. This passage begins a series of episodes on what it means to be a "disciple" (discipleship). It begins with Jesus' second prediction of His upcoming betrayal and crucifixion and then on teachings related to discipleship. Let's look at the following passage and discover what we learn about discipleship.

READ: Mark 9:30-10:31 with an eye on what it looks like to know, love, and follow Jesus as His disciple.

What do you notice about Jesus' prediction (in 9:30-32) followed by the disciple's discussion (9:33-37)? What is the contrast of how people were perceiving their future? What did Jesus want them to learn?

What were the disciples implying by alerting Jesus to a person (probably a Christ-follower) casting out demons? (9:38) What did Jesus want them to understand and learn? How is this related to discipleship?

How was Jesus' teaching (9:42-50) still reinforcing what He taught previously? What did Jesus want them (and us) to understand about sin or causing to sin? ("Little ones" was referring to seemingly insignificant followers who were vulnerable to spiritual failure.)

Repeatedly, Jesus used the phrase "it would be better . . .". What should a disciple understand about the long-term consequences of sin? (9:42-50)

NOTE: "Salted by fire" (49) meant that disciples will face trials and that the learned discipline would 'preserve' them (salt was used as a preservative). Through these challenges, disciples will learn to continue to live in obedience as a disciple. Jesus commanded that they "Have salt in yourselves," meaning to learn to 'preserve / sustain' one another so that they don't become useless as disciples. This attitude and practice would also help them to live in peace with one another instead of arguing (34) about who is the greatest.

Pharisees tested Jesus about divorce because there were various opinions on the topic and they wanted to entrap him into sharing a view contrary to theirs. (10:1-12). To what did Jesus base His response? According to Jesus, why did Moses (God) permit divorce (Deuteronomy 24:1-4)? What was Jesus' main point that disciples need to learn?

How do the examples of children and the rich man share a similar topic concerning the kingdom of God? (13-22) What does Jesus want us to learn?

Jesus wrapped up the encounters with Pharisees, the children, and the rich man with deeper teaching for the disciples. What did Jesus address? What did Jesus promise?

In this section of "Mark," what was Jesus overall instruction of what it means to follow Him as a disciple?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

In our passage for this week, Jesus addressed the issues of discipleship: sacrifice, pride vs. humility, obedience, endurance, and rewards. For us, the connection of all of these is related to believing that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and our behavior as a disciple should reflect our love and devotion to Him. Obedience should flow from our love for Jesus. When I love Him, I trust Him and become like Him.