

SERIES TITLE: SERVANT KING

PART ELEVEN: EVALUATING

TEXT: MARK 9:33-50

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

The gospel of Mark portrays Jesus as a Servant on the move. Using the word “immediately” over 40 times, he shows Jesus ministering. Obedient to the Father’s will, Jesus preaches the good news, heals the sick, teaches his followers, and performs miracles. All the while, he heads toward his sacrificial death on the cross. Mark 10:45 sums up his mission: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Mark’s gospel reveals Jesus to be the perfect Servant and the perfect Sacrifice. Those who receive him as the good news are empowered to serve in his name.

CONTEXT OF SCRIPTURE

Following his second prediction of his death, Jesus and his followers arrive in Capernaum. There He teaches his disciples about greatness in the Kingdom of God. He challenges them to filter their judgments of others and themselves through the lens of true Kingdom-greatness.

FOCUS QUESTION

If there was an old vase you’ve had in your house for years, and you suddenly discovered it was worth a fortune, would it change how you treated it? How and why?

EXAMINATION

9:30-32

- Why does he only want his disciples to hear this?
- What difference do you notice (if any) between this announcement and what Jesus said in 8:31-32?
- Why do you think they didn’t understand?

9:33-37

- Why might the disciples be arguing about this now?
- What is so different or unusual about Jesus saying the first should be servant of all?

9:38-41

- What reason do the disciples give for trying to stop the exorcist?
- Why does Jesus say they shouldn't stop someone like that?

9:42-50

- Who do you think the "little ones" are and why?
- Why does Jesus use such grotesque imagery of cutting off hands and gouging out eyes?
- How do you know this is not to be taken literally?

EXPLORATION

- Isaiah 66:18-24
- Micah 6:6-8
- Matthew 7:1-6
- Matthew 23:1-12
- Galatians 6:1-5

APPLICATION

- What are ways you can get caught up in looking for a position of "greatness" today?
- If you are a servant of all, won't you just get used and taken advantage of? Why or why not? Is that what God wants from us?
- Who are the least significant people and what does it mean to treat them like Jesus?
- Where do you draw the line on blessing those who minister in Jesus' name?
- What spiritual surgery needs to be performed in your life for your own good?

SUMMATION

- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?