

# MARK

## READ MARK 9:30-50

### Pursue

In this week's text, Mark 9:30-50, Jesus continues to clarify who is in the Kingdom of God and what marks them, and who is not a part of the Kingdom of God and what marks them. In addition to this clarity, Jesus warns His followers with great sobriety and intensity of the danger and cost of sin, especially those who would draw others of weaker faith towards sin. While His disciples are quarreling over who will be "great" in His kingdom, Jesus is more concerned about who will be in His kingdom at all.

- **Like the disciples, how are you tempted to compare yourself to others to see who is the "greatest"? (e.g.: *comparing spiritual life, parenting, job, finances, relationships, status, etc.*)**
- **How are you tempted to criticize, compete, and/or hinder another's work for Christ?**
- **Jesus states, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all?" What do you think it means to "be last and servant of all?"**
  - **How did Jesus model this in His life, and how can the gospel message change our desires for greatness, power, or control?**
- **What does Mark 42-50 say about the attitude we should have towards (i) other believers and their sin? (ii) Our own sin and temptation?**
  - **How does this differ from the way we usually treat ourselves and other people?**

### Practice

#### Keep One Another Accountable

In our text this week Jesus warns quite soberly about the temptations and sins that surround believers and the cost of choosing that sin consistently and unrepentantly, rather than picking up our cross and following Jesus. Also, He reminds us that the answer to Cain's question in Genesis 4, "Am I my brother's keeper?" is "yes." While we are not responsible for saving someone, that is God's job alone, we are given to one another by God to point each other and walk with each other towards Jesus, our hope and salvation. Jesus speaks about temptation and putting our sin to death like a violent attack for the preservation of our souls. Today, we want to take time to confess any areas of temptation or sin and remind each other of the gospel, that these areas might be cut off, removed, and healed.

- **Gather in smaller groups of 2-3**
  - **Spend time in prayer asking the Spirit to reveal any areas of temptation or sin you might be facing.**
  - **If He reveals an area of temptation or sin to you, share with your small group.**
  - **Remind one another of the comforts of the gospel (your forgiveness, healing, faith, etc.)**
  - **Remind one another of the call of the gospel (ongoing repentance, forgiveness of others, resisting future temptation, etc.)**
  - **Pray for one another that God might grant repentance and bear fruit in your lives!**

### Proclaim

This week we were reminded of the reality that faces those who don't yet know, love, trust and obey Jesus. This should be sobering for us as we think of those we long to follow Jesus. Spend time in prayer asking God to save those men & women. What is one step you could take to point them to the hope they have in Jesus this week?