

MARK 9:30-50

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. What does Jesus tell his disciples in verses 30-32? What is their response?
2. What was the discussion that the disciples were having on the way to Capernaum? How does Jesus respond to the disciples? What symbol does he use to answer their discussion?
3. What does Jesus say about hindering others from using His name?
4. Who are the little ones referred to in verse 42? What will happen to anyone who causes one of these little ones to stumble?
5. What phrase is repeated in verses 44, 46, 48? Does your Bible have any comments about this phrase? Where does it come from?
6. What is the common theme in verses 43, 45, 47?
7. What are we told about salt in verses 49, 50??

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. Why were the disciples afraid to ask Jesus about his comments in verse 31?
2. Explain how Jesus' words in verse 35 make sense. How does this answer the concern on the part of the disciples to be the greatest?
3. Why do the disciples desire to hinder others from casting out demons?
4. How do you understand verse 40? What about those who do not believe, are not hostile, and preach tolerance of all faiths? Are they included in this statement? Why or why not?
5. What is the principle outlined in verses 43-48? What other passages of the Bible support this viewpoint?
6. Explain verse 49.
7. What does it mean to "have salt in yourselves"? Use the last phrase in verse 50 to try and tie verses 33-50 together into a cohesive unit. How are these verses related to one another??

APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. What things about Christianity don't you understand? Are you afraid to find out the answer to those questions? Why or why not?
2. This passage deals with the issue of comparison (who is greater, who is genuine, who is part of our team and allowed to use the name of Jesus). How do we rate as believers in relation to the disciples? They appear insecure and suspicious here. What is the effect of Christians bickering over status and rights in our churches?
3. How real is hell for you? The words of Jesus here regarding hell are harsh. Are you willing to sacrifice physical blessings for future spiritual blessings? Explain your answer.
4. How have you been salted with fire?
5. How do you see yourself as salt??

ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.