

## The Gospel According to Mark

# Jesus' Lessons on Spiritual Ministry

Mark 9:30-50



### Introduction:

"From there they went out and began to go through Galilee...[and] they came to Capernaum" (vs. 30, 33)

"He did not want anyone to know about it. For He was teaching His disciples and telling them..."

### I. MINISTRY WITH AN OBEDIENT ATTITUDE (vs. 30-32)

#### A. Toward the possibility of suffering. (vs. 31b-32)

"The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later."

"But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him."

#### B. Toward the will of God.



### II. MINISTRY WITH A SERVANT'S ATTITUDE (vs. 33-37)

#### A. Toward fellow workers. (vs. 33-35)

"They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them..."

" 'What were you discussing on the way?' But they kept silent, for on the way they had discussed with one another which of them was the greatest."

"Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, 'If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.' "

"Jesus warned against the spirit of elitism that can exist within a ministry team and between ministry teams. The answer to elitism from within is to have a servant's heart, and the answer to elitism toward outsiders is to recognize the unity of the family of God that transcends smaller groups of ministry."

— Mark Bailey

#### B. Toward the little ones. (vs. 36-37, 42)

"Taking a child, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them..."

" 'Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me.' " (Matthew 18:3-7)

vs. 42 - " 'Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea.' "

### III. MINISTRY WITH A TOLERANT ATTITUDE (vs. 38-41)

A. Toward the “competition”. (vs. 38-40)

“John said to Him, ‘Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to prevent him because he was not following us.’ ”

“But Jesus said, ‘Do not hinder him, for there is no one who will perform a miracle in My name, and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me.’ ”

“ ‘For he who is not against us is for us.’ ”

B. Toward those in need. (vs. 41)

“ ‘For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.’ ”

**IV. MINISTRY WITH AN AUTHENTIC ATTITUDE** (vs. 43-50)

A. Toward your personal integrity. (vs. 43-48)

“ ‘If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, <sup>44</sup>where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED. <sup>45</sup>‘If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than, having your two feet, to be cast into hell, <sup>46</sup>where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED. <sup>47</sup>‘If your eye causes you to stumble, throw it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell, <sup>48</sup>where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.’ ”

B. Toward your obedient sacrifice. (vs. 49-50)

“ ‘For everyone will be salted with fire.’ ”

“ ‘Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again?’ ”

“ ‘Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.’ ”

**Conclusion:** This text speaks to us of...

- 1) radical love
- 2) radical purity
- 3) radical sacrifice
- 4) radical obedience