

DISCIPLING THE DISCIPLES

Mark 9:30-49

- **Jesus has finished His work in Galilee and He is heading to Jerusalem. He now begins to concentrate on teaching His disciples.**

³⁰ From there they went out and began to go through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know about it. ³¹ For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, "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." ³² But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him. ³³ They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way they had discussed with one another which of them was the greatest. ³⁵ 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." ³⁶ Taking a child, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me." **Mark 9:30-37 NASB**

- **Jesus very clearly describes His death and resurrection to the disciples but they did not understand and were too afraid to ask questions.**
 - **The disciples did, however, discuss who among them was the greatest.**
 - **Jesus asks them what they were discussing but apparently no one felt 'great' enough to reply.**
 - **So Jesus gives them instructions about servanthood, a servant's heart, and a servant/leadership.**
 - **The first will be last.**

³⁸ 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." ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ For he who is not against us is for us. 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. 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. ⁴³ 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, ⁴⁴ [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.] ⁴⁵ 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, ⁴⁶ [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.] ⁴⁷ 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, ⁴⁸ where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED. ⁴⁹ "For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ 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." Mark 9:38-49 NASB

- **John tells Jesus that they saw some people casting out demons in Jesus' name and they opposed them because they were not part of 'the team'.**
 - **Jesus says, "He who is not against us is for us."**
 - **"Even if someone simply gives you a cup of water because you are following Me, you should reward them."**
 - **Jesus is helping them see that they need to value and accept those who follow in His name.**
 - **He warns them not to cause followers of Him to stumble...a millstone 'necklace' is a better fate than damaging the 'flock.'**
 - **Don't cut off your hand or your foot, or pluck out your eye but do recognize the serious matter of being a stumbling block to people.**
 - **We need to walk uprightly and be at peace with God and be a peacemaker among believers.**

Save Your people and bless Your inheritance; be their shepherd also, and carry them forever. Psalm 28:9 NASB

- **Take whatever steps are necessary to keep yourself from stumbling or falling and that might cause others to stumble or fall.**
 - **The word for 'stumble' here means to scandalize or offend someone.**
- **Jesus did not want the disciples to live in ways that would be hurtful or offensive to those who were following Him.**
- **Anyone ever ask you if hell is real??**
 - **Have them read Mark 9:42-48...if Jesus says hell is real, then it is real.**
- **We are supposed to have 'salt' in ourselves but not be 'salty'...don't be salty, be at peace, don't worry about who is the 'greatest', just try to live 'stumble free.'**
- **The Pharisees try to 'trap Jesus in a public inquiry about divorce.**

When Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan; ² and large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there. ³ Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it

lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"⁴ And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,⁵ and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'?⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."⁷ They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY?"⁸ He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.⁹ And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."¹⁰ The disciples said to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry."¹¹ But He said to them, "Not all men can accept this statement, but only those to whom it has been given.¹² For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are also eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept this, let him accept it." Matthew 19:1-12 NASB

- **This is the parallel passage to Mark 10:1-12 but Matthew 19 is more detailed.**

When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a bill of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house,² And when she departs out of his house she goes and marries another man,³ And if the latter husband dislikes her and writes her a bill of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies, who took her as his wife,⁴ Then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife after she is defiled. For that is an abomination before the Lord; and you shall not bring guilt upon the land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance. Deuteronomy 24:1-4 AMPC

- **The Pharisees are trying to cause Jesus to say something they can use against Him.**
- **There are two schools of thought among the Jesus scholars about the interpreted. (Deuteronomy 24:1-4)**
 - **Shammai – They believed that the term 'some indecently' in v1 of Deuteronomy 24 meant 'immorality' as the only allowable cause for divorce.**

- ***Hillel – they believed that the clause ‘she finds no favor in his eyes’ was the key statement and it opened up divorce to take place for any reason the husband wanted to use.***
- ***Jesus clearly sided with the Shammai group but He went back to the time before Moses and showed that the original intention was marriage without divorce.***
- ***When they questioned Jesus about Moses’ words about a divorce decree, He does not fault Moses but the hardness of heart amongst the people...this was not the only issue that Israel had ignored or disputed.***
- ***So the Pharisees were trying to get Jesus to say something against God or Moses but it failed.***
- ***Everyone was aware of the two interpretations but Jesus had not spoken about them...once again He handles a difficult situation with wisdom and truth.***
 - ***By the way, the word for ‘indecent’ is not about adultery specifically...the consequence for adultery was being stoned to death...not a certificate of divorce.***
- ***Traditions of men, of the Elders were not the Bible but carried great weight with the Jewish culture...the religious leaders often valued the traditions of men higher than the Word...remember ‘Corban’. See Mark 2:8-13***

¹Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life [which is] in Christ Jesus [the law of our new being] has freed me from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the Law could not do, [its power] being weakened by the flesh [the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit]. Sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, [God] condemned sin in the flesh [subdued, overcame, deprived it of its power over all who accept that sacrifice], ⁴So that the righteous and just requirement of the Law might be fully met in us who live and move not in the ways of the flesh but in the ways of the Spirit [our lives governed not by the standards and according to the dictates of the flesh, but controlled by the Holy Spirit]. Romans 8:1-4 AMPC

¹³And they kept bringing young children to Him that He might touch them, and the disciples were reproofing them [for it]. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw [it], He was indignant and pained and said to them, Allow the children to come to Me—do not

forbid or prevent or hinder them—for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive and accept and welcome the kingdom of God like a little child [does] positively shall not enter it at all. ¹⁶ And He took them [the children up one by one] in His arms and [ferverently invoked a] blessing, placing His hands upon them. Mark 10:13-16 AMPC

- **Jesus values children and a child-like heart...filled with open faith, expectation, and joy.**

¹⁷ As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments, 'DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'" ²⁰ And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up." ²¹ Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²² But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property. ²³ And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ They were even more astonished and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ Looking at them, Jesus *said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." ²⁸ Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, ³⁰ but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last, first." Mark 10:17-31 NASB

- **The young man 'runs' to Jesus and kneels before Him and calls Jesus 'Good Teacher'.**
 - **Jesus tells him that only God is good.**
 - **He is turning His 'eyes' to the Father but He likes this man and is going to invite him to 'join' up with the disciples.**
 - **The question for Jesus, "What do I do to inherit eternal life?"**

- **Jesus points to the 'commandments' and the young man says he has kept them all...even as a teenager!**
- **Jesus then tells the rich young man to go sell all he has, give it away and come and follow Him. A tough ask!**
 - **That did not fit the young man's plans.**
 - **Is money evil? No! But being possessed by your possessions is...it is not that you can't have wealth...it is just not healthy if it has you.**
- **Jesus says it is hard for the wealthy to enter the kingdom...this stupefies the disciples.**
 - **If the rich man has trouble finding the kingdom of God, then who can be saved??**
- **Jesus answers...with people it is impossible but not with God; for all things are possible with God.**

³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' John 3:3-7 NASB

- **The Holy Spirit drawing us makes it possible to see and to enter the kingdom.**
 - **All this and heaven too! (Mark 10:28-31)**