

Mark Series: Let the Gospel Tell the Gospel

GREATER VALUES:

Equipping Disciples for Kingdom Growth by Gospel-Centered Gathering, Giving & Going

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK 9:33-50

3 February A.D. 2013

Mark 9:33-35 **God in Christ values the lesser—not hanging onto heavenly position but taking on flesh; Jesus' disciples too often desire position and power over kingdom purpose.**

³³They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He *began* to question them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had discussed with one another which *of them was* the greatest. ³⁵Sitting 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."

Mark 9:33-35 NAS

If Jesus is going away then the kingdom must be going to be established: everybody's looking for a place, a position of influence.

Will you be Gospel-centered in the ways you serve the kingdom in and through Cov?

Mark 9:36-37 **Jesus esteems the lesser, the undervalued, instructing that the way to greatness is to embrace the seemingly less valuable.**

³⁶Taking 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 9:36-37 NAS

The Aramaic word for servant is the same as one of the words for children.

Children need to be hugged; servants need to be valued.

Where do opportunities for Greater Value reside at Cov & in the Valley?

Mark 9:38-41 **Jesus condescends to gather and use still-learning, still-failing disciples, who too easily reject all who are not in their insecure, imperfect, self-defined group.**

³⁸John 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." ³⁹But 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.

Mark 9:38-41 NAS

Numbers 11:26–29 (NAS)

- 26 But two men had remained in the camp; the name of one was Eldad and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them (now they were among those who had been registered, but had not gone out to the tent), and they prophesied in the camp.
- 27 So a young man ran and told Moses and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."
- 28 Then Joshua the son of Nun, the attendant of Moses from his youth, said, "Moses, my lord, restrain them."
- 29 But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD'S people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!"

"He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters. *Matthew 12:30* NAS

Where are you most tempted to allow your insecurities and pride show to fellow believers, churches & groups?

We do not serve to gain acceptance or value rewards above Christ, but God does not forget any bless Christ's flock.

Mark 9:42-48 **Every member of Jesus' flock is precious to him;
those who carelessly lead others & themselves off course risk eternal judgment.**

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*. Mark 9:42-48 NAS

See also, Mat 5:27-30.

Do not forget Mark 7:20-23: ²⁰ And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. ²¹ "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, ²² deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness. ²³ "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man." Mark 7:20-23 NAS

What do you need to do this week to be reminded that the stakes are higher than you think regarding whether or not you define your life in Gospel-centered, kingdom terms?

Mark 9:49-50 **Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem where he'll become a salted sacrifice;
each of us is to live as a salted sacrifice, seeking to live out the peace of the gospel.**

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 9:49-50 NAS

"Every grain offering of yours, moreover, you shall season with salt, so that the salt of the covenant of your God shall not be lacking from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt. *Leviticus 2:13* NAS

"You shall present them before the LORD, and the priests shall throw salt on them, and they shall offer them up as a burnt offering to the LORD. *Ezekiel 43:24* NAS

¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2 NAS

How might being a living sacrifice play out in bringing, spreading peace in the various aspects of your life?