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THERE'S A WAR ON

MARK 9:30-50



There's a war on. It rages on every day and you're right in the middle of it! The battles that mark this war are not waged with guns, bombs, tanks, or troops. The war is spiritual. Neither side will surrender, and your life depends on which side you take ... and you must take a side. Mark 9:30-50 reveals to us that the disciples were in the middle of the war and they didn't know it. Serious moments were upon them bringing serious consequences. If they don't realize it soon, they will be in serious danger.

WHAT IS GREATNESS? (9:30-37)

1. Read Mark 9:30-37. Earlier in Mark's gospel, Jesus spoke in coded language to distinguish those who had ears to hear his message from those who didn't. Jesus regularly had to explain his teaching to his disciples. Now, in verses 31-32, Jesus is speaking plainly, and the disciples are struggling to decode the message. What does Jesus say will soon happen to him? Why don't the disciples want to accept the plain meaning of Jesus' message?
2. According to verses 33-34, what is in the disciple's minds as they travel to Capernaum that prevents them from understanding Jesus' message?
3. How does your definition of greatness compare with that of Jesus? If we misunderstand what greatness is, how does that impact our ability to participate in the mission of his church?

KILL OR BE KILLED (9:38-50)

4. Read Mark 9:38-50. Compare how Jesus reacts to the disciple's attitude toward the man who was casting out demons in his name with how we react to Christians who are not in "our" group.
5. In verses 42-48, Jesus uses vivid and graphic language to make a point. What is it?
6. The great puritan theologian, John Owen, once said, "Be killing sin or sin will be killing you!" List three ways we can wage war and win the battle against sin in our lives.