

PREACHING CURRICULUM

SIMPLY FOLLOWING JESUS – MARK 9:30-41

WHEN FAITH BECOMES ABOUT ME

In this week's passage, Jesus once again announces His mission to His disciples, and once again, they fail to grasp what He is telling them. To make matters worse, they get involved in a dispute amongst themselves about who is the greatest. Jesus then takes an opportunity to teach these men about what true greatness actually means.

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read Mark 9:30-32. What was Jesus' primary mission? Why were the disciples afraid to ask Him about it?

Read Mark 9:33-37. According to Jesus, what must you do in order to be great? How does this contrast with the world's way of thinking about greatness?

Read Mark 9:38-41. Why was John upset that someone was doing miracles in Jesus' name? Why did Jesus instruct His disciples to allow people to do it?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Do you have an ego problem in your own life? Ask yourself the following diagnostic questions:

In your conversations with others, are you eager to talk about yourself, or are you genuinely interested in the other person and what they are saying?

Are you willing to do work that you know will not gain you any recognition?

Are you willing to spend time with people who may be unpopular and overlooked by others?

Are you jealous when other people are recognized for their achievements?

Do you regularly think about the needs of others and how you can help to meet those needs?

Are you passionate to see God's name glorified, even at the expense of your own reputation?

Do you know any Christians who are "not in your tribe"? These could be people in other churches, denominations or traditions, or those with whom you disagree strongly about certain secondary issues. If so, what is your reaction when you see them doing work in Christ's name?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

Have you identified any areas of pride and selfishness in your life? If so, how can you begin to address those issues and pursue true greatness, according to Jesus' definition?

Have you developed a "tribal" mentality when it comes to Christians outside of your own church, denomination or tradition? If so, how can you encourage and support those outside of your own circles in their ministries?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (5-12)

What practical actions have you identified which you are willing to commit to putting into practice this week?