

- “He asked,” “they kept silent” – continuous in Greek – revealed the wrong motives of the apostles.

Mark 9:35, “And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.’”

- “be last ... servant of all” – counter to our culture!

Jesus Forbids Sectarianism – 9:38-41

- Jealousy for exclusiveness ... (11) _____ motives characterized John’s rejection.

Philippians 1:15, “Some indeed preach Christ from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 16) The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; 17) but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. 18) What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.”

Jesus’ Sermon on Hell – 9:42-50

- The premise of Jesus’ sermon on hell was causing His children to (12) _____. We must be very cautious to cause Christ’s followers, especially children, to stumble.

Matthew 9:42, “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.”

Mark 9:43-48

- The word for “offend” here means to cause one to (13) _____. Hand ... foot ... eye ... not surrendered to Christ can cause a person to sin.

Mark 9:49-50

- Salt was a preservative and an (14) _____. Salty Christians hold back evil and prevent spiritual infection!



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Answers: 1-most 2-humanity 3-Peter 4-form 5-resurrection 6-witnesses 7-144,000 8-authority 9-run 10-imperfect 11-wrong 12-stumble 13-stumble 14-antiseptic

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Pastor Jerry Johnston’s sermon
Wednesday, November 4, 2009
“How to Be the Greatest in God’s Kingdom”
Message #14 in the series, “Your Miracle in the Mirror of Mark”

Bible Text: Mark 9:1-50, pp. 1659-1661 in the Nelson Study Bible

The Transfiguration – 9:1-13

Mark 9:1, “And He said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.’ 2) Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them.”

- The Transfiguration account is found in all 3 synoptic Gospels – Mark gives us the (1) _____ detail.
- The Transfiguration establishes the (2) _____ of Jesus Christ.
- (3) _____ was so impacted by the event he later wrote about it.

2 Peter 1:16, “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17) For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ 18) And when we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.”

- “He was transfigured before them” – (Greek – metamorphoō) or metamorphose in English which means “to change the (4) _____ or appearance.”

>>> The word is used of the transformation that is to take place in the believer’s behavior.

2 Corinthians 3:18, “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (cf. Ro. 12:1-2)

Mark 9:3, “His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.”

Mark 9:3 (Amplified Bible), “And His garments became glistening, intensely white, as no fuller (cloth dresser, launderer) on earth could bleach them.”

“All about them lay the virgin snows of [Mount] Hermon. Suddenly, His very garments rivaled the driven snow for whiteness and purity. Such whiteness in a human garb had never been seen on earth.”

-John Phillips, *Exploring the Gospel of Mark* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, Inc., 2004), 189.

Mark 9:4, “And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.”

Luke 9:31, “Who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”

- What did they talk about? Messianic OT passages; the anguish of the cross; the promise of the ⁽⁵⁾_____.

Mark 9:5, “Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’ – 6) because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid [the word implies violent fright – Heb. 12:21].”

- Often man does not know how to respond to the power and anointing of God.

Mark 9:7-13

- Rev. 11:3-13 & Rev. 7 tell us two ⁽⁶⁾_____, (Elijah & Moses or Enoch) will win ⁽⁷⁾_____ Jews to Christ during the Tribulation who will preach to the masses calling Jewish people back to God.

Demon-Possessed Boy – 9:14-29

Mark 9:17, “Then one of the crowd answered and said, ‘Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18) And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashed his teeth, and becomes rigid. So, I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.’”

- “seizes him” (*katalambano*) – from the English *cataplexy*, it means “to seize hold of someone or something so as to make it one’s own.”
- “throws him down” (*rhegnumi*) – it means to “distort” or “to convulse.”
- “gnashed his teeth” (*trizo*) – it speaks of a shrill cry by grinding the teeth.
- “becomes rigid” (*xeraino*) – it means to waste away, to wither.

>>> The Lord had recently given His disciples ⁽⁸⁾_____ over demonic spirits.

Mark 6:7, “And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.”

Mark 9:19-22

Mark 9:23, “Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe,’ all things are possible to him who believes.’ 24) Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.’”

- “the child” – here it is diminutive, the boy was only a little child, a mere infant!
- “help” – means to literally ⁽⁹⁾_____ to the cry of those in danger.

>>> Ask the Father to *help* you with your needs!

Mark 9:25, “When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, ‘Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!’”

- “unclean spirit” (*akathartos*) – it means corrupt or foul.”

Mark 9:26-27

Mark 9:28, “And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, ‘Why could we not cast it out?’ 29) He said to them, ‘This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.’”

- “this kind” – there are different kinds of demons!
- “prayer and fasting” – little prayer, little power, more prayer, more power, much prayer, much power!

Jesus’ Death & Resurrection – 9:30-32

Mark 9:31, “For He taught His disciples and said to them, ‘The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.’ 32) But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.”

- “He taught” – ⁽¹⁰⁾_____ tense in Greek ... he kept predicting His death (8:31) – the apostles did not understand. Why?

Who is the Greatest? – 9:33-37

Mark 9:33, “Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, ‘What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?’ 34) But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.”