

23S06 Mark 9:30-50 (Part 21)

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 9:30-50 (Part 21) Jesus predicts his death and resurrection and warnings.

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure, but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the New Testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today. xxx

Let's read Mark 9:30-50 (NAS) *³⁰And from there they went out and began to go through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know about it. ³¹For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later." ³²But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him. 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. ³⁵And 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." ³⁶And He took a child and placed him among 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." 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. ⁴⁰For the one who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward. ⁴²"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it is better for him if a heavy millstone is hung around his neck and he is thrown into the sea. ⁴³And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot is causing you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life without a foot, than, having your two feet, to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye is causing you to sin, throw it away; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT EXTINGUISHED. ⁴⁹For everyone will be salted with*

fire. ⁵⁰Salt 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.”

Let's pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 9:30-31 (NAS) ³⁰*And from there they went out and began to go through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know about it. ³¹For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, “The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later.”*

Jesus is once again predicting his death and resurrection. But the disciples don't get it. Mark 9:32-34 (NAS) ³²*But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him. 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.*

So, Jesus is talking about his death and resurrection, then later as they are traveling the disciples are arguing about who among them is the most important. Kind of like us, but they were embarrassed to tell Jesus. But Jesus is God, he already knows. You can not hide from Jesus. God knows your thoughts.

Mark 9:35-37 (NAS) ³⁵*And 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.” ³⁶And He took a child and placed him among 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.”*

Jesus illustrates this so clearly, if you want to be important in the kingdom of God, then serve others. The first must be the last, a servant to all. We need to have heart for people like God does. Love others the way Jesus loves them.

Next Mark 9:38-39 (NAS) 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.” 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.*

I sense a tinge of jealousy here, the disciples wanted to have the distinguished position. Jesus is trying to show them that know one can do anything in his name without him allowing it.

Next Mark 9:40-42 (NAS) *⁴⁰For the one who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward. ⁴²Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it is better for him if a heavy millstone is hung around his neck and he is thrown into the sea.*

Jesus goes even further. If you are not against Jesus, then you are for Jesus. There is no middle ground. But be warned, if you cause others to stumble, lose faith or sin, then you are going to face consequences.

Next Mark 9:43-48 (NAS) *⁴³And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot is causing you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life without a foot, than, having your two feet, to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye is causing you to sin, throw it away; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT EXTINGUISHED.* Now Jesus is going to make his point clear, whatever is making you sin, get away from it. If it's your hand or eye, cut it off and throw it away. Better to lose something in this life than face hell with all that stuff you thought was important.

Next Mark 9:49-50 (NAS) *⁴⁹For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt 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.* Jesus finishes this teaching with some statements we need to remember. Everyone is going to face troubles and trials, or as Jesus said, salted with fire. Salt is good but useless if it becomes unsalty. Keep the salt in you or may you could say it this way, keep God's truth in you or his word in you and live at peace with each other if possible.

Let's review.

- 1) Greatest? Who is the greatest? Jesus of course but beyond that, the greatest in the kingdom of God is the one who serves others. The one who will be first is the one who makes themselves the slave to everyone else. It means we don't consider ourselves more important than others. Remember this JOY or Jesus first, Others second and you last.
- 2) False Teaching? Jesus talks about this many places in the gospels. We need to be very careful not to mislead people, especially about things Jesus cares about. If our words or actions cause someone else to turn away from God, then we will face very severe consequences.
- 3) Sin & Hell? Cut-off your hand or foot, throw your eye away. This is pretty graphic, but Jesus is trying to make his point clear. Whatever is making you sin should be thrown away. Get away from it. Nothing in this world is worth it. There is no pleasure, no person more important than Jesus. Don't let anything get between you and your Lord and the life God wants for you.

Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen

Let me leave you with this today. First will be last. If you want to be important, then you are missing the point. It is not about you; it is always about Jesus. If anything is getting in the way of your relationship with Jesus, then get rid of it. We have to put Jesus first in everything we do.

What does this mean for you? God knows the best way to live. Best way for us to live with each other. God wants us to be part of his plan because he knows what is best for us. When we do things for other people, they get what they need and we get much more. It feels good to serve others. Why do you think that is? Because God knows what is best. The best way to live is unselfish and God centered. If you want help applying this to your life, contact me. I'd love to talk to you about it.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.