

April 2, 2017

## The Gospel of Mark "Following Jesus" Mark 9:14--50 Pastor Kirk Gambrell.

Vol. 7 Num. 14

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

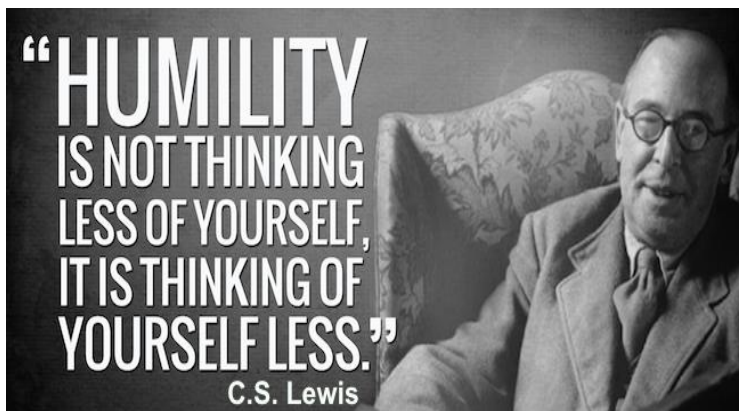
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In this week's passage, Jesus is teaching His disciples humility. In the first part they are unable to cast out the demon. Jesus instructs them that they must petition God through prayer in order to cast out this demon. Undoubtedly, this reminds them where the power to cast out the demons comes from. Shortly following this, the disciples have an argument about who is going to be the greatest in the Kingdom. Jesus confronts them and uses a child to be the example of humility they need. We must serve the least of us, such as the children, in order to be the greatest.



## Read Mark 9:14-50 (NET)

<sup>14</sup> When they came to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and experts in the law arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> When the whole crowd saw him, they were amazed and ran at once and greeted him. <sup>16</sup> He asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" <sup>17</sup> A member of the crowd said to him, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup> Whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they were not able to do so."

<sup>19</sup> He answered them, "You unbelieving generation! How much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I endure you? Bring him to me." <sup>20</sup> So they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell on the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. <sup>22</sup> It has often thrown him into fire or water to destroy him. But if you are able to do anything, have compassion on us and help us." <sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "'If you are able?' All things are possible for the one who believes." <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the boy cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

<sup>25</sup> Now when Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." <sup>26</sup> It shrieked, threw him into terrible convulsions, and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He is dead!" <sup>27</sup> But Jesus gently took his hand and raised him to his feet, and he stood up.

<sup>28</sup> Then, after he went into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we cast it out?" <sup>29</sup> He told them, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

<sup>30</sup> They went out from there and passed through Galilee. But Jesus did not want anyone to know, <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man will be betrayed into the

hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand this statement and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum. After Jesus was inside the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" <sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> After he sat down, he called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup> He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he was not following us."

<sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, because no one who does a miracle in my name will be able soon afterward to say anything bad about me. <sup>40</sup> For whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For I tell you the truth, whoever gives you a cup of water because you bear Christ's name will never lose his reward.

<sup>42</sup> "If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a huge millstone tied around his neck and to be thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better for you to enter into life crippled than to have two hands and go into hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup> If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better to enter life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> If your eye causes you to sin, tear it out! It is better to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies and the fire is never quenched. <sup>49</sup> Everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."

**o EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

**🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
**What does God MEAN?**

8. Why do you think the Disciples were not able to cast out the demon in verse 18?
9. In verses 22-24, why do you think Jesus cast out the demon even though the man initially is not sure whether or not Jesus can? Is he showing a lack of faith?
10. What do you think Jesus means when He says, “This kind can only come out by prayer”?  
(v.29)
11. Why does Jesus follow up the disciples’ discussion of who is the greatest by telling them to welcome children in His name?
12. In verses 43 through 50, why does Jesus suggest taking such drastic measures to avoid sin?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

**Why does this MATTER to me?**

13. One of the main ideas that Jesus seems to be teaching His disciples in this passage is humility. Why is it so important for us to have humility in our lives?

14. When is it difficult to show humility in your life?

15. How can our humility help advance the Kingdom of God and our local church?

## **Summarize your thoughts on the passage**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

## **SERMON NOTES**