



The Gospel of Mark



WARM-UP

What is the funniest thing a kid has said to you?



What happened last time in Mark chapter 9?

MARK 9:30-37 (NIV)

³⁰ They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." ³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "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."

"Because this is all according to the divine plan, God is ultimately behind this handing over. Human hands are instruments of his judgment, his wrath. The harshness of human beings without mercy makes this instrument of wrath bitter indeed. God is ultimately also behind the handing over of Jesus, because his death is part of the divine plan, and because it is governed, in particular, by the prophecies relating to the suffering servant. The servant was handed over by God himself, not for his own sins, but for the sins of others. Jesus is well aware of the harshness of human power, and he predicts that the son of Man will be handed over into the hands of these people who are without mercy, who lord it over their subjects. "

- [The Cross from a Distance](#) by Peter G. Bolt, page 54



What stands out to you?



In what subtle or socially acceptable ways do we still measure “greatness” today?



In each prediction of death Jesus mentions 4 things: the son of man, will be killed, after 3 days, He will rise. But here we see the addition of “being delivered into the hands of man”. Why do you think that would be important for Jesus to mention?



Jesus is talking about His suffering and resurrection in plain language, yet the disciples are confused and afraid to ask about it. What do you think they could have been afraid of? What is your response to truths you don’t like or can’t control?



Verse 35 begins with “sitting down”. This is important because Rabbi’s would sit down to teach. By doing this, Jesus was emphasizing that he was about to teach the disciples. How does Jesus use this teaching to answer the question of greatness/rewards and flip it on its head?

MARK 9:38-50 (NIV)

³⁸ “Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

³⁹ “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰ for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

⁴² “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. ^[44] ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. ^[46] ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where

“the worms that eat them do not die,
and the fire is not quenched.’

⁴⁹ Everyone will be salted with fire.

⁵⁰ “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”



Each prediction of Jesus’ death also contains the announcement of death, a failure on the part of the disciples, and a moment of Jesus teaching on discipleship. List out where you see each one in these two passages.



In verse 38, John tries to stop someone from “driving out demons” in Jesus’ name because they were not one of the twelve disciples. This reveals exclusivity and a desire to protect the “in group” even if it's stopping a good thing. Where do you see that same mentality today? What are ways to avoid that type of exclusionary behavior?



Jesus speaks of being “salted with fire.” How can suffering, discipline, or repentance actually preserve and deepen our faith rather than destroy it?



Looking at the entire passage, list out the different attitudes and responses we see from the disciples. How does the gospel meet them right where they are?



With the question above, which response from the disciples do you relate to the most right now? Why?



How do both these passages hold together both radical grace and radical holiness without contradiction?

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- What do you feel like Jesus is teaching you today?
- Is there anything that you are afraid to ask Jesus?