

This Is The Way of Discipleship?

Mark 9.33 – 10.52

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Telos: Mark gives you the distinguishing marks of the followers of Jesus.

Subtitle

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Introduction

- A. Over the centuries, many have devised their own means of distinguishing disciples of Jesus.
- B. But Jesus himself, in this particular portion of the Gospel, gives us the real marks of discipleship.

I. Disciples of Jesus Seek Greatness (**Mark 9.33-37**)

- A. The path to greatness comes in seeking to serve *everyone!!*
- B. At first this seems unrealistic because who would ever argue about who is the greatest?
- C. Jesus involves a child in the discussion.
- D. You must see yourselves as everyone else's slave.

II. Disciples of Jesus Must Be Inclusive, Not Exclusive (Mark 9.38-41)

- A. As disciples, we must be more *inclusive* than *exclusive*.
- B. The last phrase gives us much direction when it comes to this inclusive principle.

III. Disciples of Jesus Must Deal With Sin (Mark 9.42-50)

- A. We must be vigilant against anything that would cause a young disciple, a new believer, to sin.
- B. You must also give diligence to dealing with sin in your own life.
- C. I need to heed the warning against causing young believers to sin *when it comes to our own children!!*

IV. Disciples of Jesus Must Practice Marital Fidelity (Mark 10.1-12)

- A. Pharisees question Jesus since, LIKE TODAY, the whole issue of divorce was a pressing question.
- B. First, notice that Jesus actually changes the Old Covenant law.
- C. A disciple must live out God's original intent for marriage.
- D. *How can we show ourselves true disciples of Jesus in this area of life? BE SPECIFIC as to how you can show contentment in marriage.*

V. Disciples of Jesus Must Exercise Child-like Faith (Mark 10.13-16)

- A. *Jesus loves children!!*
- B. We must love children like Jesus did – we must be "child-friendly" men like Jesus was.
- C. As parents, *we must bring our children to Christ.*

D. The last thing Jesus wants us to understand is that we must exercise child-like faith if we would enter the kingdom of God.

VI. Disciples of Jesus Must Choose Jesus Over Everything Else (Mark 10.17-31)

- A. Jesus challenges the rich, young man by reciting these commandments.
- B. This young man cannot earn anything from God, but neither can he embrace Christ until he ***wants Christ more than anything!!***
- C. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter Christ's kingdom.
- D. See also the grace of Jesus in his response to Peter.

E. *Jesus disciples will not be covetous people, but people who are SATISFIED IN CHRIST!!!*

VII. Disciples of Jesus Must Serve (Mark 10.32-52)

- A. Please notice that the death of Jesus connects what appears like two sections into one.
- B. It begins with Jesus telling his disciples again about his death.
- C. Yet the disciples don't get it.
- D. Jesus tells them he must die and that he serves others by his death – in fact his death is the ***very model of serving others***.
- E. Then Jesus gives them a real life example as he heals blind Bartimeus.
- F. What about US – do we have the right view of serving?

Conclusion

- A. We must learn, then, what Jesus considers the marks that distinguish his disciples from all others.
- B. We must learn them so that we can become what Jesus intends us to be.
- C. But we must also learn and practice them so that we do not devise our own distinguishing marks that end up as wrong distinctives.