

February 19/20, 2005

## Study Questions

*The Good News About Jesus According to Mark*

### The Path To Greatness

Mark 9:30-50

Pastor Andy MacFarlane

#### Opening

1. Outside of the experience of your relationship with God, what is the greatest experience you have ever had? What made it great?
2. Excluding Jesus, who is the greatest person you have ever known? What made that person great?

#### Bible Study

1. Read Mark 9:30-32. In verse 30, why do you think Jesus wanted to keep His visit to Galilee a secret? Why do you think Jesus is so intent on teaching the disciples about His coming death and resurrection?

In verse 32, why do you think the disciples were afraid to ask Jesus about His coming death and resurrection? If you had been one of the disciples, how do you think you would have responded to Jesus' teaching on His death and resurrection?

2. Read Mark 9:33-37. In verse 33, how do you think the disciples felt when Jesus asked them what they were discussing on the way to Capernaum? How do you think Jesus felt about their discussion?

What do you think of Jesus' definition of greatness in verse 35? Why does the example of a child fit Jesus' teaching on greatness so well? Do Jesus' words in verse 37 motivate you to live out His definition of greatness? Why or why not?

What is the connection between the disciples living out the world's definition of greatness and their callousness and insensitivity towards Jesus in Mark 9:30-34?

3. Read Mark 9:38-42. In verse 38, why do you think the disciples wanted to prevent another person from casting out a demon in Jesus' name? What is the basis of the disciples' jealousy? When are you most likely to suffer jealousy or envy of another?

According to verses 39 and 40, why is Jesus unconcerned? According to verse 42, what is a far greater concern to Jesus?

Have you ever felt controlled or manipulated by the jealousy of others to not live out your faith? How did it affect you? How did you deal with the situation? How does living out Jesus' definition of greatness prevent jealousy and envy in our lives?

4. Read Mark 9:43-48. Against what is Jesus warning? Why will cutting off a body part not deal with sin? Then what is the purpose of this hyperbole or exaggeration?

What is the relationship between living out our faith and living out Jesus' definition of greatness?

5. What is the salt of Mark 9:49?

In New Testament times, salt was a preservative. What must we do to remain "good" salt? What might be the connection between being good salt and living in peace with one another?

## **Application**

1. As the Holy Spirit examines your heart, honestly answer the question, "Which definition of greatness am I living out – that of the world or that of Jesus?"

What evidence shows that you are living out Jesus' definition of greatness? Do you see evidence of insensitivity or jealousy in your life?

What evidences do members of your LifeGroup see of Jesus' definition of greatness in your life? What evidences do they see of the world's definition of greatness in your life?

2. What can you do this week to be around Jesus so that His definition of greatness might "bleed" into your life? What needs to change in your heart that you might own Jesus' definition of greatness? How can others pray for your heart condition?
3. What is one thing you can do this week to practically serve another?