

After Effects: Study Notes

Sermon Notes:

Passage: Mark 9:38-41

-disciples at just tried to cast out a demon and failed. They were fighting over who would be the greatest in the kingdom and Jesus put them in their place. It seems that some insecurities are creeping up in this passage. They want to decide who is acceptable and who is not. Who is allowed to minister in Jesus name and who is not.

-the church has had a tendency to disqualify those that are different. Not wanting to accept other church's, denominations or streams of thought. Jesus made it clear though that if they are for us, then they are not against us.

-we are all on the same side, so we need to support other church's and believers. Celebrate their victories.

Passage: Mark 9:42

-Jesus is using hyperbole to get his point across in these next verses.

Jesus placed an emphasis not just in taking care of our own spirituality, but to look out for others as well. You are not just responsible for yourself. What you do can effect others. Your lifestyle effects others.

Are we doing everything in our power to introduce our children to God?

-are we doing everything in our power to demonstrate it to them in our own lives actions and choices?

what are our priorities? do we show our priorities to our children by what we choose and what we put aside.

-if every activity that we put our kids into comes before having them in church, comes before having them in youth group etc. we are inadvertently communicating to them what is most important. God takes second, third or fourth place.

The opposite is also true. We can take our kids to all the church events we want, but if we are not living it out in front of them we are causing them to sin.

Passage: Mark 9:43-48

Jesus calls us to take drastic measures when it comes to dealing with sin. He uses the illustration of bringing physical harm on ourselves to prove a point. These body parts are things that we value. Things close to us.

Through images of body parts, Jesus makes clear that stumbling blocks are not necessarily other people or things outside of us. They are part of us. These stumbling blocks might be **things that are not bad in and of themselves.**

Passage: Mark 9:49-50

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- from the context you get a feeling of trial and tribulation is connected to this idea of fire and salt as well as sacrifice. Salt was used in the old testament sacrifices. They would salt the meat as it was sacrificed.
- Salt speaks of purity and preservation.

Life Group Discussion

(feel free to use any or all of these questions)

Warm Up:

1. What was the first vehicle you ever had? what did you love or hate about it?
2. What would you prefer, for your life to be too slow or too busy? why?

Study & Discussion:

Read together: Mark 9:42-50

1. Jesus is making a lot of exaggerated (hyperbole) type statements here. How serious do you take these comments? Do you think Christian community in general takes it seriously?
2. How do you view sin? What effect have you seen it in your own life or the lives of others?
3. Why do you think that Jesus would use body parts as part of his explanation for sin?
4. In what ways do you think we can cause our children to sin?
5. What drastic measures have you taken in your own life to deal with sin?
6. In what ways does the body of christ/christian friends help in this regard?
7. what role does the Holy Spirit play?

Prayer:

1. Is there someone outside the group you would like prayer for today?
2. Is there an area of struggle, temptation or sin that you would like prayer for today?