

Finding Jesus Again

A Study in the Gospel of Mark

Mark 9

38 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.” 39 But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

Mark 9

40 For the one who is not
against us is for us 41 For
truly, I say to you, whoever
gives you a cup of water to
drink because you belong to
Christ will by no means lose
his reward.

Mark 9

42 “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. 43 And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.

Mark 9

45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell.

47 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 48 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'

Mark 9

49 For everyone will be salted with fire. 50 Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Mark 9

38 John said to him,
“Teacher, we saw someone
casting out demons in your
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“Identity Politics”

“...a tendency for people of a particular religion, race, social background, etc., to form exclusive political alliances, moving away from traditional broad-based party politics.”

Mark 9

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In contrast to the
disciples, what
does the
kingdom look
like?

1. Jesus calls us to inclusive cooperation with those who are doing Jesus's work in Jesus's name.

Jesús nos llama a una cooperación inclusiva con aquellos que están haciendo el trabajo de Jesús en el nombre de Jesús.

A photograph of a man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit and tie, sitting in a chair and smiling. The background is a blurred interior space with warm lighting. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark layer to make the white text stand out.

David Garland

This undogmatic openness to others will trouble anyone more intent on establishing the limits of who is in and who is out than on winning the war against the enemy. The enemy becomes anyone who is “not one of us,” instead of Satan.

Mark 9

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In contrast to
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like?

2. The smallest contributions
are valued at the highest
levels.

Las contribuciones más
pequeñas se valoran en los
niveles más altos.

Mark 9

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3. Jesus reserves the strongest possible warning of judgment for people who would cause others to stumble by their divisive behaviours.

Jesús reserva la advertencia de juicio más fuerte posible para las personas que harían tropezar a otros por sus comportamientos divisivos.

In contrast to the
disciples, what
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4. We are called to examine our own lives with great care rather than pointing out the failure of the other group.

Estamos llamados a examinar nuestras propias vidas con mucho cuidado en lugar de señalar el fracaso del otro grupo.

A man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit and tie, is seated in a light-colored armchair. He is smiling and has his hands clasped in his lap. The background features a brick wall on the left and a blurred interior space with warm lighting on the right.

David Garland

"...[the disciples] need to be more worried about the evil within them than about outsiders."

Mark 9

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In contrast to the
disciples, what
does the
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like?

5. The path to harmony and
peace is inviting God's refining
working our lives.

El camino hacia la armonía y
la paz es invitar a Dios a
refinar labrando nuestra vida.