



TEACHING IN THE HOUSE

Mark 9:33–50

³³Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, “What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?” ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest. ³⁵And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, ³⁷“Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.” ³⁸Now John answered Him, saying, “Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us.” ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. ⁴⁰For he who is not against us is on our side. ⁴¹For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. ⁴²But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— ⁴⁴where ‘Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— ⁴⁶where ‘Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— ⁴⁸where ‘Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ ⁴⁹For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. ⁵⁰Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”

—Mark 9:33–50

Read Mark 9:33–50

Jesus taught in open fields, the Temple courtyard, synagogues, and in people’s houses. This is just one of the reasons that most churches promote home groups for believers to study and fellowship together. It is not just in church that Jesus teaches us His ways and priorities, and warns us against the dangers of division and sin, He also speaks to us wherever and whenever we are willing to listen.

It was while the disciples were in the house with Jesus that He corrected their misconceptions and taught them about the ways of:

- True greatness
- His priorities
- Unity
- The dire consequences of sin
- Life
- Our purpose and identity in this world
- The demeanor we are to have toward others

As we spend time with Jesus, we should expect to be corrected in our own misconceptions and behavior, as well as learn and embrace His ways and priorities. Jesus desires that we would be like Him. It is only as we spend time with Jesus, listening to His Word, receiving His correction, and observing His ways that we are transformed into His image. *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord* (2 Corinthians 3:18).

As you prepare your lesson this week, may the Lord prepare your heart to receive His correction and love.

1. Use Mark 9:33–37 to remark on the following:
 - a. What Jesus asked the disciples concerning

- b. The disciples' demeanor
 - c. The disputed subject
 - d. How Jesus handled the situation
 - e. What Jesus said concerning:
 - 1) Those who desire to be first
 - 2) Children
2. From Mark 9:38–41, comment on:
- a. John's rebuke
 - b. Jesus' correction
 - c. Jesus' commendation
3. According to Mark 9:42–50, what did Jesus say about:
- a. Those who stumble little ones
 - b. The dire consequences of sin

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“And Jesus sat down,” is the position that a rabbi took whenever he was going to teach an important lesson. Instead of rebuking them about who was going to be greatest, instead of condemning them for this, he told them how they could be the greatest.

—Pastor Chuck Smith

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In Jesus' time, a child had no status and no rights and was utterly dependent on the beneficence of their guardians.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The words “child” and “servant” are the same in the Aramaic language; it is easy to see why Jesus connected the two. If we have the heart of a child, we will have little difficulty being servants, and if we have the attitude of servants, we will welcome the children as representatives of Jesus Christ and the Father.²⁵

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dead sea salt could lose its flavor since it was not pure.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

—Matthew 5:13

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

—Colossians 4:6

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In ancient times, covenants of peace were often confirmed with salt.

- c. A serious response to the threat of sin
 - d. Everyone
 - e. Salt
 - f. Peace
4. What is your greatest takeaway from Jesus' teaching in the house?