

## HOW'S YOUR ATTITUDE?

--MARK 9:30-41--

### INTRODUCTION:

Jesus' major focus now is teaching His disciples and preparing them for His death, resurrection, and ascension. In this passage Jesus is going to teach His disciples the important lesson of humility. This is an important truth not only for the disciples but for us as well. Humility is not considered a virtue in our proud, self-centered world, nor was it in the world and culture in which Jesus lived. Even though humility is not looked upon as a desirable trait by fallen human nature, it is foundational to the Christian life.

#### I. CHRIST'S EXAMPLE (Mark 9:30-32)

- a. Jesus Christ described Himself in Matthew 11:29 as "gentle and \_\_\_\_\_ in heart." (Philippians 2:5-8)
- b. Now that His ministry in Galilee was over, we read that as He and His disciples traveled through \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus did not want anyone to know about it.
- c. The word translated "\_\_\_\_\_" in verse 31 is a Greek word that literally means "to hand over." (Acts 2:23)
- d. The struggle to comprehend the reality that the Jews and Romans would kill Jesus, but on top of that Jesus declared that once He had been killed, He would \_\_\_\_\_ three days later. (Luke 9:45)

#### II. CHRIST'S TEACHING (Mark 9:33-37)

- a. Mark informs us that when they arrived in Capernaum, they went into a \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Mark writes, "*They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, 'What were you \_\_\_\_\_ on the way?'*" (Mark 9:33, NASB95)
- c. There is no real \_\_\_\_\_ among proud people, because only humble people love. (Philippians 1:27)
- d. What is it that prideful people want most? They want to be noticed; they want to be \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 23:5-7; Matthew 6:1-5)

- e. Next Jesus took a \_\_\_\_\_ and had him stand among them.
- f. Jesus uses this child to represent \_\_\_\_\_, those who have put their faith in Jesus. (Matthew 18:1, 3, 6, 10)

#### III. CHRIST'S ADMONISHMENT (Mark 9:38-41)

- a. Jesus' words stirred John's \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. This reminds me of another incident in the Old Testament, \_\_\_\_\_ was also upset when he found Eldad and Medad prophesying in the camp and he called Moses to stop them (Numbers 11:26-29). (John 3:27-30)
- c. Jesus' reply to John in Mark 9 gives \_\_\_\_\_ for all time.
- d. When we suppress our pride and humble ourselves then the important thing about ministry is not style or tradition or denomination, but that \_\_\_\_\_ name be lifted up and glorified.

### CONCLUSION:

When we consider Christian ministry and living the Christian life, it is no exaggeration to say that attitude is everything. There is no place in the church for seeking dominance and first place. Imagine Jesus saying to you, "*If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.*" (Mark 9:35b, NASB95)

How's your attitude? Are you seeking to be served and to be first? Or have you embraced the radicalness of servanthood that comes when we humble ourselves. Imagine Jesus Christ "*Taking a child, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, 'Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me.'*" (Mark 9:36-37, NASB95) How's your attitude? Are your arms open to others among God's people? Finally, hear Jesus' call John to loving tolerance. "*But Jesus said, 'Do not hinder him, for there is no one who will perform a miracle in My name, and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me. For he who is not against us is for us.'*" (Mark 9:39-40, NASB95) Is your attitude exclusive or narrow? Or do you have the informed tolerance that comes when we humble ourselves before Christ, which rejoices when the name of Jesus is glorified?