

Sermon questions for Sardis Community Church Small Groups

October 24, 2021

Mark 9:30-50

Divide up the passage among 2-3 people to read out loud for the group, because it's a long one this week! Consider the following questions that relate specifically to the sermon as well as the generic questions that have also been provided. Choose which you think might be most helpful for your group:

1. Andrew quoted Pete Scazzero when he said "Jesus may be in your heart, but Grandpa is in your bones" as a way of articulating that Jesus transforms us when we become Christians, but we have life experiences to work through (especially from our family of origin). How does that quote sit with you, and do you see it to be true to your experience? How have you had to work through your past as an ongoing part of your apprenticeship to Jesus?
2. Who in your life, whether it be at work or in the neighbourhood, might fall into the category of "little one"? Remember that although Jesus uses a small child as an example of a little one, the same is true for those of lower social standing, without power, those who may be on the margins or forgotten. How might God be speaking to you to act towards this person(s) this week?
3. Andrew used the phrase "spiritual elite-ism" to describe competitive tendencies, or condescending views, towards other Christians, churches, denominations, traditions, or cultures that we sometimes fall into. Where do you think this tendency comes from? What do you think is a healthy way to hold convictions but also appreciate diversity?
4. Why do you think Jesus uses such harsh language in Mark 9:42-50? What does this tell you about how seriously Jesus takes this teaching?
5. Consider Mark 9:41. Can you think of a time where you have received "a cup of water" from someone when you needed it most? Can you think of a time where you handed someone a "cup of water"? Would you be willing to share this with the group? How might God be leading you to give another cup of water in the future?
6. A motivation to be great, or a desire to do excellent work isn't necessarily a bad thing, is it? We should do good work, be great family members, etc. What do you think Jesus is really driving at in this passage? Does it have to do with greatness at the expense of others? Self centeredness?
7. As a result of reading this passage and hearing this sermon, what do you think is the most important thing for an apprentice to take away from this message, and what is the most important thing an apprentice should do as a result?