

DISCUSSION IDEAS

WHO'S IN? WHO'S OUT?

Mark 9:38-50

January 24th, 2016

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THOUGHT: Who do I reject because I disagree with them?

What does that have to do with living out agape love?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: EXCLUSIVISM.**

In Mark 9:38-41, what was the problem?

What had the disciples observed?

Note the specific wording: Was it, "trying to cast out demons", or "casting out..."?

What does this say about the man they were observing?

What does this indicate about his relationship with God? His trust?

Why did the disciples think he was doing something wrong?

What was Jesus conclusion in vv. 39-41?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: ACCEPTANCE, vs. "TOLERANCE".**

What does the world around us mean by "acceptance" and "tolerance"?

Does accepting someone who believes somewhat differently than I do mean that I accept all that they believe?

What is our ultimate source of Truth?

As we interact with others, what is the difference between being perceptive and being judgmental?

What is the key point of trust required in order to be born again?

Remember the question: "If asked by God, what would you answer to the question 'Why should I let you into My Heaven?'".

How am I to interact with someone who may or may not truly believe in Jesus?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: ENCOURAGING OTHER BELIEVERS.**

What was Jesus talking about in Mark 9:42-50?

In what way might my responses or my example cause someone else to stumble?

What is the meaning of "Integrity"? What should that look like in my life?

How might my actions be showing hypocrisy instead?

Might I have habits that are not consistent with being a follower of Jesus?

If encouraging others is a high value, how do I go about doing that?

How do I do that and still not compromise regarding the Truth of God's Word?

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Consider this: What is my underlying attitude? Do I really love others with agape love?

If not, how can I go about changing my own attitudes?

What would be the importance of finding someone to encourage me and keep me accountable too?

In vv. 49 and 50, discuss how fire and how salt both are examples of purification. Additionally think about the preserving characteristics of salt.

♦ **CHALLENGE:**

As in verse 50, what does "having salt in" ourselves mean?

How does that relate to being at peace with one another?

Consider these challenges:

A DISCIPLE ENCOURAGES THE FAITH OF OTHERS.

and

A DISCIPLE SAFEGUARDS THE FAITH OF OTHERS BY PURSUING A LIFE OF SPIRITUAL INTEGRITY.

♦ **PRAYER:**

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's power to be continually shown in the Baranganon Island, as well as at Shelter Valley.

Ask God to continually guide you in becoming the person He wants you to be.

Pray for our individual relationships and our witness to those in our lives.