

COLLIDE: When Heaven Meets Earth

What Can Jesus Do For You?

Matt Vorhees

March 16, 2014

INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE

Mark 9:14 - 10:52

EXPOSITION

Slice #1:

Slice #2:

Bottom Line:

Meat:

Application:

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Community Group Curriculum
For the week of March 16, 2014
“Cost of the Kingdom”
Mark 9:14 – 10:52

BIG PICTURE

Our passage this week could be called “Lessons for Discipleship.” Jesus descends from the mountain, His glory is hidden and He is greeted with arguing, selfishness and a lack of understanding as to what it means to follow Him. He tells the disciples that the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and that to be first in the Kingdom of God you must be the last. Discipleship should alter the way we see ourselves and everyone else and should result in the way we live out the spiritual principles taught in this lesson.

LET'S DIG IN!

Prayer is the Power – Not You (Mark 9:14–32)

1. According to Jesus, why were the disciples unable to cast the demon out of the boy (Mark 9:19, 29)? Think back to the leper in chapter one. How is the father's request in verse 22 similar to yet different from the leper's request in Mark 1:40?
2. Which do you struggle with more – believing that Jesus can or that He wants to answer your prayers? Explain.
3. Are faith and prayer similar? How?
4. At the end of this account, Jesus again tells his disciples about his death and resurrection (vv. 30–32). Why do you suppose the disciples failed to understand what He meant?

Greatness in the Kingdom (Mark 9:33-50; 10:35-41)

1. How does the disciples' argument (v. 34) illustrate the degree of their lack of understanding of Jesus' teaching? Contrast the concerns of Jesus with the preoccupation of the men who followed Him.
2. How does our current culture measure greatness?
3. Using the following Scriptures, how does God measure greatness?
 - a. 1 Samuel 16:7

- b. Matthew 5:19
 - c. Matthew 20:25-28
 - d. Philippians 2:5-8
4. How does Jesus' attitude toward the man casting out demons (vv. 38-41) in Jesus' name differ from the disciples' attitude? How is the disciples' attitude similar to how Christians react today toward other Christians who aren't part of "our" group?

Causing Another to Sin (Mark 9:42-50)

- 1. Jesus gives a warning about causing another to stumble. Give some examples of how Christians can cause one another to sin or stumble (Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 8:9).
- 2. Virtually all readers agree that Jesus' commands in verses 42-48 are not to be taken literally. What does Jesus teach about discipleship with His use of graphic pictures?

The Cost of Being a Disciple (Mark 10:17-31)

- 1. What is the rich man looking for (v. 17)? Jesus answers his question by restating the basic commandments that every Jewish person knew well; we call them the Ten Commandments. What is the focus of the ones He quotes (v. 19)?
- 2. Why are the disciples shocked that wealth won't buy a place in the age to come (vv. 23-26)? Is material wealth a hindrance in following Jesus? Explain.

PRAYER PLEASE

"Father God we bow before You today as we praise You for Your goodness in our lives and the lives of Your people. May You be glorified today in all we think, say and do. Go before us to accomplish Your purpose in the world today for Your glory and our good. In Jesus' name... Amen!"

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

We live in a culture that is the direct antithesis to the ways of God. Our culture is preoccupied with self and the pursuit of possessions and power. How easy is it for us to assimilate into that mindset. A lukewarm disciple is marked by behavior that conforms to this world's pattern. God calls us to develop a lifestyle of self-sacrifice and servanthood. How do you go about developing a servant heart? What did you hear Jesus say to you "on the way" through this lesson this week?