

Loving God with your mind



Take some time in a concordance and look up all the things that happen in Capernaum.

Want to look deeper? Did you know...

❖ The disciples seem to struggle with the idea of who is the greatest. Looking forward to chapter 10, the sons of Zebedee ask to be exalted on Jesus' right and left in heaven. Even after this discussion in Ch. 9, they don't track with what Jesus says.

➤ This serves as a reminder to us of how many times Jesus' teaching is misunderstood by the disciples throughout the book.

- Mark very cleverly uses the disciples perceived ignorance and arrogance to push us, the readers, toward doing better than the disciples.
- The challenge is for us to listen, understand and apply Jesus' teaching in our first hearing of it.

Looking Forward: Mark 9:38-50

Gospel of Mark

Responding to the Messiah



Mark 9:30-37

The Greatest in the Kingdom

Looking Back: Mark 9:14-29

List out some initial thoughts or questions from today's passage...

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Loving God with your actions

- ❑ In what ways can we conquer fear?
 - ❑ Take 5 minutes and write out what you are fearing right now.
 - ❑ Consider what is at the root of each of those fears. (e.g. financial insecurity: rooted in a faith in money vs. God)
 - ❑ Take a few minutes and pray to ask God to overcome those fears for you.
- ❑ List some ways being great in the world is different than being great in the Kingdom of God.
- ❑ List some ways you can selflessly serve your neighbors, friends, family, church family, “least of these.”

Loving God with your heart

- ❑ How does choosing obedience affect our heart?
- ❑ When fear grips you this week, spend some time remembering God’s faithfulness in your life.
- ❑ When we’re in tough or fearful situations, we can tend toward focusing on our own security and desires. Spend some time this week reading about people who live and have lived in much more unfortunate situations than your own.
 - ❑ After this, spend some time in prayerful confession and petition for God to reorient your own heart toward the needs of others.
- ❑ What is preventing you from serving people around you? (pride, building our own kingdom, etc.)

Cross references and additional connections: Look these up!

- ❑ Upside down Kingdom: Matthew 20:26, Mark 10:43-44, Luke 22:24-27, Philippians 2
- ❑ Receiving: John 13:20, John 1:11-13, John 12:48-50, Galatians 3:13-14

Questions for reflection:

- ❖ How does our culture view someone who is a servant? And how has that influenced your personal view?
- ❖ What are some areas in your life where I can be more like Christ in “receiving/welcoming” others?
- ❖ When you consider all that Christ has done for you. What are some ways you can glorify Him by becoming a better servant?