

## Grow Up as Followers of Jesus Mark 9:38-50

### Jesus identifies the problem with some of His followers:

#### Unfair judgmental or critical spirit which reveals deeper issues of the heart. Mark 9:38-42

- An unfair judgmental attitude is rooted in personal pride. Mark 9:33-34  
*"...on the way they had discussed with one another which of them was the greatest."*
- An unfair judgmental attitude is based on my personal preferences, not dependence on Jesus' teaching. (v. 38-39)  
We need self-awareness when we are not aligned with Jesus. (He works in ways we may never understand)  
Note these failures in just Mark 9:
  - vs. 6 - At Jesus' transfiguration, they did not know what to answer.
  - vs. 10 - They did not know what "rising from the dead" meant.
  - vs. 18,19 - They could not cast out demon on their own. Jesus calls out this "unbelieving generation."
  - vs. 32 - They did not understand the core mission of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.
  - vs. 34 - They are more concerned about their own greatness than Jesus' mission.
  - vs. 38 - Therefore, they unfairly rebuke a man serving in Jesus' name.
- Refocus on the mission of Jesus, whether great or small. (vs. 40-41)  
*"For he who is not against us is for us. For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward"*  
James 2:14-16; 1 John 3:17

#### Jesus warns against any kind of obstacle to a growing faith Mark 9:43-48

- Failure here can cause great harm to other people. (vs. 43)  
"Stumble"= a trap that snares someone and causes them to fall away.
- Therefore, cut out anything that causes harm to the mission of Christ. (vs. 44-48)
- Tough love from Jesus and reality of "hell." Gehenna - Jeremiah 7:31-33; 19:1-6
  - Cut off hands – whatever I do
  - Cut off feet – wherever I go
  - Throw out eyes – whatever I think or see...

See Digging Deeper on the back for areas to evaluate.

#### Therefore, Jesus Call Us all to His Purity and Peace Mark 9:49-50

- We are called to live in purity from Christ. (vs. 49, Mark 9:31; Leviticus 2:13) *"For everyone will be salted with fire."*
- We are called to peace with one another. (vs. 50) *"Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."*
- Let Jesus purify you by "cutting out" your sin and sending it away through forgiveness. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9
- Forgive is apohiemi "apo"=from "hiemi"= to send. Jesus will send your sin away if you confess it to Him.

## Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

Jesus calls us to follow Him and align our lives with His mission. Below are some beliefs and deeds that may need to be “cut out” of our lives. These beliefs are not consistent with pursuing the mission of Christ. Evaluate your own situation to determine if any of these beliefs are part of your life and need to be cut out.

- **Materialism** – I trust in possessions for value, security, importance. I do not give to ministries in proportion to what God has given to me.
- **Hypocrisy** – I present myself as a good Christian but do not reflect the holiness, love and grace of Jesus in my business, school, relationships, private life.
- **Legalism** – I work hard to gain favor with God and judge other people that do not live as I do. A performance based faith where love is earned. I will love you if you live the way I want you to.
- **Narcissism** – I deserve to be happy and comfortable and do not care what you think. Meet my needs and desires, or I will leave you. I see myself as more important than others.
- **Relativism** – God’s truth is subjective and not absolute. I will determine what feels right and is true for me and base my life on that. “My truth” may not be “your truth” but that is ok.
- **Hedonism** – My private life is no one’s business. Whether pornography, living together outside of marriage or sexual promiscuity, I have the right to pursue whatever makes me feel good.
- **Conditionalism** – I will forgive/love you if... I only love/forgive if I gain something or if you respond by my conditions.

Read and reflect on the verses below and have Christ remove (cut out) and forgive your sins as you confess them to Him: Psalm 51:1-2; Acts 3:19; Romans 5:8; James 4:7-8; 1 John 1:9

Sometimes a church loses the true mission of Christ. Below are some warning signs of that:

- When the memory of our history is greater than our vision for the future.
- Liturgical worship styles are more important than spiritual growth.
- Cure social problems rather than spiritual transformation by Gospel of Jesus.
- More concerned with man’s words than God’s Word.
- Change God’s Word to be accepted in today’s changing values.
- Our buildings are more significant than our ministries.
- More concerned with the size of our congregation than the spiritual depth.

## In Response:

**COMMUNION:** Communion is a “meal” for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

**GIVING:** The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus’ name. Discover ways to give on the front of the *Weekly Current* bulletin or visit [calvarylife.org/give](http://calvarylife.org/give)

**PRAYER POINTS:** These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

**PRAYER ROOM:** The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.