



Introduction

Jesus is a King who is bringing a new kingdom. His kingdom looks different than any other kingdom that had existed before. Jesus was regularly teaching his disciples what to look for regarding His kingdom, yet their preconceived ideas often hindered them from fully seeing and accepting it. In helping his disciples to identify His kingdom, Jesus challenged them to have a new way of identifying greatness (9:33-37), dealing with the opposition (9:38-41) and disposing of evil (9:42-50). These instructions were so important that Jesus warned people that the results of failing to see and embrace his kingdom is death and destruction. (9:43-50).

Observation/Interpretation

- In Mark 9:35-37, how does Jesus redefine greatness? How does Jesus' attitude toward children help to illustrate his point?
- In Mark 9:38-41, how does Jesus attitude differ from that of the disciples? Why?
- Most all teachers/scholars agree that Jesus statements about "cutting off your hand, if it causes you to sin..." (9:43) isn't to be taken literally but rather is a strong warning to be taken seriously nonetheless. What is Jesus attempting to teach about being a disciple of Christ through these graphic illustrations?

Application

- How do our desires for approval and status from others lead us into sin and away from the Kingdom that Jesus is building?
- In what ways can we live according to Jesus' kingdom by being at peace with each other? (9:50)

Prayer

Thank God that we have a King who became the least and lowly, loved those who opposed him, and dealt with sin by paying the price for us we could not pay.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.