

Discussion questions - Mark 9

Note: You don't need to answer every question for each section

What stood out to you/what did you learn from the sermon on Sunday?

The G.O.A.T (Greatest of all time) is a popular shorthand to refer to those who are at the absolute top of their field. What are other ways people talk about 'greatness' today? How is it understood?

Read Mark 9:1-13

What do you know about Elijah and Moses? Why might it be significant that they appear with Jesus (v4)?

What might Peter's suggestion in v5 regarding putting up three shelters reveal about the way he still perceives Jesus?

What does the cloud appearing and covering them (v7) remind you of from the Old Testament, what does the voice from cloud reveal about the difference between Jesus and Elijah and Moses.

Why might it be important for the disciples to keep the matter to themselves until after the Son of Man has risen from dead?

Why do you think they were confused about what 'rising from the dead' meant v10?

What do you think it means that 'Elijah must come first'v11 and what is meant by Jesus reply that 'Elijah has come'v13?

Read Mark 9:14-29

What do you think the boy's father means by his cry in v24? Can you relate to his words?

Why couldn't the disciples drive out the evil Spirit? What does Jesus reply reveal about the relationship between the work of the disciples, the place of prayer and the work of Jesus?

Read Mark 9:30-37

What preconceptions do you think the disciples might have had about Jesus that made it hard for them to understand his words in v31?

Why do you think Jesus makes a specific statement about welcoming children? What is it about our willingness welcoming children, that might reveal our willingness to be a genuine servant? (v35-37)

Read Mark 9:38-50

What might have been behind the disciples instruction to stop the man driving out demons? (v38)

The context is important here, as Jesus goes to the cross, he will face increasing hostility and isolation even from those closest to him. What might he mean by v40?

In what kind of ways might we be in danger of causing others to stumble? (v42)

These verses present a confronting image of the gravity of sin, the reality of hell, and the offer of salvation. They raise a question: if we were to remove every body part that has ever been involved in sin, would anything be left? How can these verses prompt us to consider what it means to deny ourselves, lose our life for Jesus, and gain eternal life (Mark 8:34-37)?

How might the knowledge of Jesus' ability to miraculously and effortlessly restore the hands, feet, and eyes of those who approach him in faith, as demonstrated already in the Gospel of Mark, help his disciples understand why it is far better to enter life with Jesus in a state of brokenness, ready to be restored, rather than facing the reality of being "thrown into hell"?

In light of the verses we have just read, what do you think it means to 'have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other'? (v50)

How do these verses help you rethink what greatness is?