

**The Journey to Eternity**  
**Week 5 | Feb. 9, 2014**

**Glimpses of the Kingdom**  
**Mark 9:38-50; 10:13-16**



Jesus came to show us the Kingdom of God, the wise and gracious rule of God over our lives. In these passages, He gives us several glimpses of His upside-down kingdom. Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

**Read Mark 9:38-41.**

At first glance, Jesus' statement in Mark 9:40—"whoever is not against us is for us" — seems to contradict Jesus' statement in Matthew 12:30 —"He who is not with me is against me."

[Q] How do these two statements fit together? (Note closely who is being described in each verse.)

[Q] What key phrase is repeated in Mark 9:38, 39 and 41? (Note: the ESV leaves it out.)

[Q] How is Jesus turning the disciples' idea of who is a true follower upside down?

Some Christians act as if everyone who is not unambiguously a part of their small circle of carefully defined followers of Jesus could never be a true believer. But if someone is successfully drawing on Christ's power, doing good deeds in his name, and the Jesus they profess is the Jesus of the Bible, then we are usually on safe ground assuming such people are true believers even if not a part of our denomination, fellowship, theological tradition, and the like.

Craig Blomberg, Denver Seminary  
[tinyurl.com/forusoragainstus](http://tinyurl.com/forusoragainstus)

[Q] What does Jesus mean when He refers to doing something *in my name*?

Apply: [Q] When do you think of your actions being done in Jesus' name? Do you need to change some thinking, or change some actions?

**Read Mark 9:42-48.**

[Q] In what ways does the world encourage people to take sin lightly?

[Q] How is Jesus' view of sin the opposite of our culture's view?

[Q] Are there sins in your life that you've not been taking seriously? How do these verses help you to think like Jesus about them?

"These little ones" refers to all God's children who follow Christ and seek to serve Him. The way believers treat others in the family of God is a serious thing, and God wants us to "have peace one with another"

Warren W. Wiersbe,  
*The Bible Exposition Commentary*

**Read Mark 9:49-50.**

In Old Testament times the temple sacrifices had to be accompanied by salt (Lev. 2:13; Ezek. 43:24; Ex. 30:35). Salt is known for its preserving, purifying effects. The idea of fire signifies suffering and refinement.

**Peter wrote about this in 1 Peter 1:6-7.**

*<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. NIV*

**From the weekend message:** “Here’s what Jesus is saying:

As you journey with me toward the full realization of my kingdom, know this, you will be tested, you will be purified by the fires of persecution, sacrifice and temptation. But don’t be afraid! I’ve gone through it. I know the way. Follow Me.”

[Q] What upside-down principles of Christ’s Kingdom do you see in the 1 Peter passage and in the quote from the weekend?

**Read Mark 10:13-16.**

Jesus often turns our expectations of what it means to be His follower upside down.

[Q] What do you learn about the compassion of Jesus in this passage? What do you learn about His anger?

[Q] What qualities does Jesus see in children that help us to understand how to enter and live in His Kingdom?

[Children] stand for the kind of dependence and helplessness and need and insufficiency and faith that is required of adults to enter the kingdom of God. To "such as these" (verse 14) belongs the kingdom. John Piper

Apply: [Q] In what ways does your faith need to be more child-like?

**Pray**

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**For further study: Read and discuss more upside-down values of the Kingdom.**

Matthew 10:39  
Mark 9:35; Mark 12:41-43  
Luke 17:33  
2 Cor. 12:10; also see 2 Cor. 6:8–10

Galatians 2:20  
Proverbs 11:24