

living
AUTHENTIC
discipleship

FIRST LOOK @ JULY 25TH

Mark 9:1-50

Jesus would always model for His disciples the character traits He was teaching them. As disciples, we learn to live as a follower of Christ—a life of *Caring Concern* for those around us. Meditate on these passages this week and see where Jesus is drawing you closer to help you grow more like Him so that you can love, and care for those around you.

MONDAY *Mark 9:1-13*

Consider moments in your life when you have experienced God's self-revelation on a proverbial mountainside through the person and work of Jesus:

When & where did you experience God's self-revelation?

What affect did that have on your love for and loyalty toward Him?

What fruit was born in your life because of that encounter?

TUESDAY *Mark 9:14-29*

The father asks Jesus to do something *if he is able*. Jesus responds to the father's request with a remark about the sufficiency of faith. The father cries out for Jesus to assist him in his lack of faith.

We have all been where this father is before. Consider moments in your life when you just didn't know if Jesus could do something. You just weren't sure if he could _____.

What was the occasion of your "unbelief"?

How did you find Jesus sufficient even on that occasion?

Perhaps that occasion is not something from your past, but is very much in your present. If it is, recognize that faith is a gift from God & pray the prayer of this father asking Jesus to help your lack of faith

Wednesday *Mark 9:30-37*

When Jesus' followers miss the nature of Jesus as Messiah, they also miss the nature of discipleship.

Where have you missed the nature of Jesus' Messiahship and thereby confused the nature of discipleship?

Are you engaged in a prideful pursuit of authority, prestige, power, influence, & clout or seeking to love, serve, sacrifice, & give as a follower of Jesus who during his first advent was a suffering servant?

THURSDAY *Mark 9:38-41*

The prideful self-exaltation evident in the previous passage naturally leads to premature judgments on the validity of the ministry of others. We fall victim to this same mode of thinking many times in the church.

When have you dismissed the ministry of another person, church or para-church organization because:

You were not familiar with their background?

They were not a part of your denomination or tradition?

They differed on non-essential doctrines (open hand issues)?

Repent and recognize that Jesus can work in and through other people, denominations & traditions...

FRIDAY *Mark 9:42-50*

This is a stern warning to us to remember to uphold the faith of our brothers and sisters at all costs.

Jesus says if anything stands between us and the demands of the gospel (self-denial & sacrifice) we should cut it off or pluck it out.

In what ways do we need to heed the warning about jeopardizing the faith of others?

What must you cut off or pluck out in order to heed the demands of the gospel? (call to self-denial & sacrifice-Mark 8:34-38)