

In His Likeness– Mark Scene 24

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Mark 9:30-50

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Jesus wants to radically change our understanding of power and influence

And he wants to teach us what to do with it.

*How is power and influence typically defined in our world?

Read and discuss Mark 9:30-35 (NIV)

³⁰ They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.” ³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

Power and influence are not about accomplishing things

Power and influence ARE about serving people.

*How is caretaking fundamental to Jesus’ power and authority?

*Where are places that you have power and influence to take care of people?

Mark 9:36-37 (NIV)

³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

Power and influence are not about accomplishing things for your group

Power and influence ARE about accomplishing things for those who do not have power.

*Are there places you have become overly attached to your ‘group’?

*Where are places that your influence can accomplish things for the powerless?

Mark 9:38-41 (NIV)

³⁸ “Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

³⁹ “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰ for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

Power and influence are not concerned with who gets the credit

Power and influence ARE concerned with the mission.

*Why do you think credit is so important to us?

*What does it look like for you to celebrate people and things being restored by those outside your group when you don't necessarily agree with them on everything?

Embrace the fact that God has given you power and influence on earth

We need to align ourselves with Jesus' definitions and not the world's.

*What makes aligning with his systems hard as we live in this world? What tensions arise in pursuing his type of leadership while living in our times?

*How does the world constantly persuade us to accept its definitions?

*How can we support each other to stay aligned with the heart of our savior?