



JUST JESUS: A Journey Through Mark PART 34 - 9:30-37

The Road, the House, and the Heart

READ: Mark 9:30–37 AND Luke 9:43–48

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What stands out to you in this passage about Jesus' intentional secrecy and focus? What do you notice about where He goes, who He avoids, and what He prioritizes?
- 2) Jesus predicts His betrayal, death, and resurrection plainly... yet the disciples "kept on not understanding" and "kept on being afraid." Why do you think these two reactions often go together — confusion and fear?*
- 3) The disciples argue about "who is the greatest," but Jesus answers by embracing a child — the lowest-status person in their culture. What does this teach us about how Jesus defines greatness?*
- 4) Pastor G said: "Transformation begins when you start hearing your own foolishness in the presence of Jesus." How does that land with you? Have you ever realized Jesus was confronting something in your heart you didn't want to see?

A Savior Who Walks Toward the Cross

READ: Mark 9:31 AND Isaiah 53:5–6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Jesus repeatedly teaches about His death and resurrection because the disciples "kept on not understanding."
What does this show you about His patience as a Teacher?
- 2) The prophecy in Isaiah 53 shows a Messiah who willingly carries our sin.
How does that deepen your understanding of why Jesus talks so openly about His suffering?
- 3) Jesus says He will "rise again."
What emotions or expectations do you imagine the disciples had hearing that?
- 4) Pastor G said: "The cross looked like defeat... but it was deliverance. It looked like chaos... but it was choreography." How does seeing God's sovereignty in suffering encourage you in your own seasons of confusion?

The Cost of Assumptions and the Courage to Ask

READ: Mark 9:32 AND Proverbs 3:5–6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) The disciples "kept on not understanding" AND "kept on being afraid to ask."
Why is fear often the thing that keeps us from seeking clarity with God?
- 2) Can you think of a time when your expectations of God made it hard to hear what He was truly saying?
- 3) The disciples' silence reveals avoidance — not confusion.
Why do you think we sometimes avoid the very truth that would set us free?
- 4) Pastor G said: "The only thing more dangerous than not understanding Jesus is being afraid to ask Him." Where in your life do you need to ask Jesus a question you've been avoiding?

Greatness Redefined in the Kingdom of God

READ: Mark 9:33–37 AND Philippians 2:3–8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1) Jesus asks the disciples, "What were you discussing on the way?"

Why do you think He presses them even though He already knows the answer?

2) The disciples' argument about greatness reveals pride.

What does Jesus teach about true greatness by placing a child in their midst?

3) Jesus says, "Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me."

What does that teach us about the connection between humility and intimacy with God?

4) Pastor G said: "If you want God to trust you with influence, He must first trust you with a towel." How does that reshape your understanding of leadership, service, or ministry?