Crossroads International Church Matthew Lyle

Series: Mark: Compassion Unveiled 2025-06-29

**Members Only**

***Mark 9:38-10:16***

**Problem:** The disciples struggled to understand Jesus’ vision of the Kingdom. Instead of embracing humility, they pursued status; instead of welcoming outsiders, they drew lines; instead of childlike trust, they argued over greatness.

**Subject**: What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus

**Complement**: Understanding that Jesus is the Messiah who died for our sins, we are called to recognize our true position before God—not one of privilege, but of humility—and to serve others accordingly.

**Main Idea: In a world obsessed with status, control, and exclusivity,**

**Jesus redefines who belongs in His kingdom—and how to get there.**

I. It’s okay to be **exclusive**

II. The owner gets to set the **requirements**

III. Requirements should be spelled out **clearly** and applied **consistently**

I. Who Gets to Represent Jesus (9:38-41)?

A. John tries to stop someone “not following us” from casting out demons (38).

B. Jesus welcomes the outsider (39-41).

**→The Kingdom is not a private club—it’s open to all who act in Jesus’ name AND NATURE.**

II. What keeps us out (9:42-50)?

Hindrances to entering the Kingdom:

A. When we cause others to stumble (42)

B. When we let sin linger in ourselves (43-50)

**→ Jesus uses radical hyperbole to warn us: deal with sin or it will deal with you.**

**→ Everyone will be tested, true disciples pursue holiness (salt) rather than harbor sin.**

III. Who defines Commitment (10:1-12)

1. The Pharisees test Jesus about divorce (1-4).

* They ask what’s lawful, not what’s faithful—focusing on loopholes, not love.

1. Jesus affirms God’s design over cultural loopholes (5-9)

* Looking back to Genesis 1–2 (before the fall) helps us see forward to Revelation 20–21—the ultimate marriage of Christ and His Bride.

1. Jesus affirms the law more strictly —and fulfills it completely 10-12)

* Just as lust = adultery and hate = murder, divorce + remarriage = adultery—exposing our need for grace, not perfection.

IV. Who Belongs with Jesus (10:13-16)

A. The disciples try to stop people from bringing children (v. 13).

B. Jesus welcomes the children and lifts them up as the model (vv. 14–16).

**→ Kingdom entry isn’t earned—it’s received with childlike trust.**

I. **Entrance into the Kingdom of God is exclusive** — but not by status, strength, or success.  
II. **God sets the requirements** — humility, repentance, childlike trust.  
III. **God gave His Son** — so that the requirements could be fulfilled *in Him*.

Jesus is the only one who met all the requirements

—yet He laid down His membership

so that we, the outsiders, could be welcomed in.