



“The Prime Directive”

Mark 9:38-50 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
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Introduction – Today Jesus has a little talk with His disciples to encourage them to be His servant-representatives in all their relationships.

I. Living in Line With the Gospel.

- A. The foundation of the Gospel is Jesus’ story of dying for our sins and being raised from the dead. (Mark 9:30-37)
- B. The disciples are missing how to live out the truth of the Gospel in relation to others.
- C. John misses Jesus’ point entirely by desiring to hinder another disciple’s ministry. (Mark 9:38)
- D. To live out the Gospel of Jesus means to be a servant of all, not a hindrance or stumbling block.
- E. What kind of person does Jesus want His disciples to become?

II. Reasons Not to Hinder Other Disciples.

- A. If they have identified with Jesus, they won’t be speaking evil of Jesus. (Mark 9:40-42)

- B. If they are not against us, that means they are for us.
- C. Whoever helps another believer will be rewarded.
- D. Whoever hinders another believer will be punished.
- E. To emphasize how serious this is, Jesus uses some “metaphorical hyperbole.” (Mark 9:43-48)
- F. Jesus is not saying that believers are in danger of losing their salvation.
- G. He is saying that we will be held accountable for how we treat others.
 - 1. We are urged to deal ruthlessly with sin in our life.
 - 2. We are warned to never be the cause of hindering another believer from following Jesus because of how we treat them.

III. Don’t Lose Your “Saltiness.”

- A. Jesus uses the metaphors of salt and fire. (Mark 9:49-50)
- B. “Fire” may refer to the adversities we face that purify our faith.
- C. The purification of our faith makes us “saltier.”

Conclusion