



HOMEWORK FOR March 5, 2024

The Gospel According to Mark

Read Chapters 9-10

1) Read Mark 9:2-12. What questions come up for you about this vignette? _____

How have we seen so far in Mark's Gospel Jesus continuing and finishing the work of Moses and Elijah?

2) Read Mark 9:14-29. There are some components of this story that we have seen before in Mark. What are they?

What are some surprises in this story? _____

3) Read Mark 9:30-37. Why do you suppose the disciples were having a hard time understanding what Jesus was telling them? _____

And yet, while they were on the road, there was something else on the disciples' minds, instead of trying to figure out what Jesus was saying. What was on their minds? How does it tell us about their understanding of Jesus and his mission? _____

4) Read Mark 9:42-48. This teaching of Jesus' is not to be taken literally. What is Jesus teaching about discipleship using these graphic images? _____

5) Read Mark 10:1-16. The Pharisees are trying to test Jesus by bringing up divorce. What about their question is a test, and how does Jesus deal with it? _____

6) Read Mark 10:17-31. How would you explain what the rich young man is really looking for? _____

What is Jesus inviting the man into? _____

Many in the Judaism of Jesus' time (and even today) believed that wealth was a sign of God's pleasure. How can wealth actually be a hindrance to following Jesus? _____

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

The disciples are learning a lot about how hard it is to follow Jesus. Jesus has been turning upside-down some of their assumptions. Just looking at these two chapters, what are some of the things Jesus says that really challenges them?

When we follow Jesus and we mature in our faith and discipleship, we also encounter harder tasks, more challenging “asks,” and more ways in which we are to depart from “the ways of the world.” It requires more courage, faith, and spiritual energy as we mature.

How have you seen this truth in your own life?

What is challenging you in Jesus’ teachings in these two chapters?

What is something new you have learned that applies to your own life?
