

Mark 9:30-41
August 10, 2025
God's Interests, Man's Interests

1. Introduction - review

- a. Luke and his version of the rules.
- b. **Jesus on the clock.** Mark 8:27 represented the beginning of Jesus giving focused attention to His disciples in anticipation of His suffering, death, burial, and resurrection. Although some encounters happen, Jesus is very intentional about avoiding people so He can talk with His disciples.
- c. Key Concepts
 - i. Jesus' identity and mission: The Son of Man provides the bridge between the two lines of messianic prophecy, Suffering Servant and Triumphant King.
 1. The Suffering Servant *had* to come first because:
 - a. He was learning first hand what it is like to be human (Hebrews 2:16-18; 4:14-16)
 - b. He was modeling human life, dependent upon God.
 - c. He was training disciples to carry forward the message.
 - d. He had to suffer, die, and be raised again.
 - i. Atonement
 - ii. Propitiation
 - iii. Complete the model of human life, sacrificing all to pursue the highest good (My Utmost for His Highest). Suffering (sacrifice), death, resurrection.
 2. The Triumphant King will come later, when God's people have been prepared.
 - ii. God's interests, man's interests:
 1. Peter wanted Jesus to be the Triumphant King *now*. The Lord said, "Not yet!" because we aren't ready.
 2. Man's interests
 - a. Matthew 6:19-34
 - b. Luke 12:16-21
 3. God's interests
 - a. Matthew 6:33; 28:18-20
 - b. Titus 2:11-14
 - iii. Our identity and mission. Mark 8:34-9:1 gives the path to live under the umbrella of God's interests.
 1. Deny yourself. Examine your goals and the means of achieving them in light of God's word, prayer, and wise counsel from your community.
 2. Take up your cross. Identify your garden. In the almost every case, you're already in your garden. You just need to exercise your God-given responsibility to make it thrive.

3. Follow Jesus. Jesus' life provides the template for us, showing how we should live. He has given the Holy Spirit to teach, guide, and correct us.
4. Look for resurrection, new life.
5. Common mistakes:
 - a. Anything I really want must be contrary to what God wants.
 - b. Anything God wants for me will be unpleasant, involving suffering, sacrifice, and a radical life change.
 - c. God's interests and my interests are mutually exclusive.
What if my *best* interests are nested within God's interests?
2. Transition: Jesus was teaching the disciples the same things He wants to teach you and me. The disciples were failing to understand in much the same way that we fail to understand. My goal this morning is to show you God's design for gaining a fuller understanding of how He reveals Himself and His interests.
3. Prayer and read Mark 9:30-41.
4. Jesus was identifying Himself as the Suffering Servant (Mark 8:31; 9:9; 9:31)
 - a. 8:31: Peter argued. Jesus pushed back, hard.
 - b. 9:9: Peter, James, and John asked for clarification (vss. 10-13). Jesus challenged their understanding of Malachi 4.
 - c. 9:31: the disciples were afraid to ask so they just avoided questioning Jesus.
5. In the Transfiguration. . .
 - a. Jesus revealed He was *a/so* the Triumphant King.
 - b. Jesus revealed He was the fulfillment of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah).
 - c. The Father told the disciples how to understand, "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him."
6. Jesus turned conventional wisdom about leadership on its head (9:33-35).
7. Jesus challenged conventional wisdom about who has value (9:36-37).
8. Jesus challenged conventional wisdom about who has authority (9:14-29; 38-40). The authority and power to heal comes from God, not the person "doing" the healing ("This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer.").
9. Do we really believe what we say we believe?
 - a. What if my best interests are nested within God's interests? You are *God's* garden!
 - b. What if God really does love me to the degree the Bible claims He does?
 - c. BUT... What about my hurts?
 - d. BUT... What about my disappointments?
 - e. BUT... What about injustice?
 - f. What should be my response? Wrestle!