



MARK

The Gift of God





- Gen. 3:1-7
- Prov. 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.
- Prov. 4:5a Acquire wisdom! Acquire
understanding! (cf. 4:7)

Yours vs. God's



Kingdom Wisdom

Mark 9:30-50

Mark 9:30-50



1. Kingdom Standards (30-41)
2. Kingdom Values (42-50)

Kingdom Standards



- Heading home thru Galilee (30)
- Trying to keep it quiet, in order to teach His disciples (31)
 - Delivered into the hands of men
 - They will kill Him
 - He will rise three days later

Kingdom Standards



- But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him (32)
 - Why? (perhaps 8:14-21; 31-33)
- Then Jesus questioned them (33)
 - And they kept silent (34)
 - Why?



Kingdom Standards

- While Jesus was talking about His crucifixion, they had discussed which of them was the greatest (34)
 - Peter, James, John? (5:37; 9:2)
 - Peter? (8:29)

Kingdom Standards



- Jesus took a seat as the Rabbi (35)
 - “If anyone *desires*...” (see 8:34)
 - Counterculture (see Matt. 23:6-7)
 - Counter-*human* (cf. Mark 7:21-23)
 - He doesn’t correct the *desire* but the *standard* (cf. Matt. 23:12)

Kingdom Standards



- Man's wisdom: Exalt yourself! Press your rights! Take control!
- God's wisdom: humble yourself, serve others (see Phil. 2:3)
 - Even a child (or someone like a child) (36)
 - This attitude invites fellowship with God

Kingdom Standards



- Did this prick John's conscience? (38)
 - "We saw someone...and tried to prevent him because he was not following us"
 - This is a *natural* response (John 3:26-30; Num. 11:26-29)

Kingdom Standards



- God's wisdom:
 - "He who is not against us is for us" (40)
 - New standard: *actions*, not *association*
 - Even a simple cup of water *because you are Christ's* will be rewarded (41)
- Don't be exclusive / sectarian

Kingdom Values



- *Better – good* (e.g. – *the good soil*, 4:8)
 - OT (LXX): Gen. 1:12; 3:1-7
 - “Better is a little with the fear of the Lord
Than great treasure and turmoil with it.”
(Prov. 15:16)
- *Value: good* from God’s perspective

Kingdom Values



- A gruesome death is better than leading a weak believer into sin (42)
 - By instruction or example
 - Romans 14:1-15:12; 1 Cor. 10:23-33
 - *A servant of all* wouldn't do that (35)

Kingdom Values



- If your hand causes you to stumble...(43)
 - Don't take this literally!
 - The *hand* or the *heart*? (Mark 7:21-23)
 - Deal with sin in your life; pursue holiness
 - Radically, if necessary
 - Put it to death! (Col. 3:1-5)

So What?



- TV: If you can't control what you watch or how much you watch, cut the cord off
- Internet: cancel it or switch to *dial up*
- Mouth: gag yourself

“Yeah, But...”



- “...that’s behavior modification!”
- No, it’s *mind renewal* with Godly wisdom, which should change your behavior
- Our behavior should reflect God’s ways & understanding (see Prov. 2; Ps. 111:10)
- We need to trust and obey (Prov. 3:5)

“Yeah, But...”



- “...the cost is too great!”
- That’s for you to decide
- But Jesus says it’s not
- And Jesus says those who would follow *behind* Him must deny themselves, or lose all and be ashamed (8:34-37)

Kingdom Values



- For everyone will be salted with fire (49)
 - Should this go with verse 48 or 50?
 - With 48 – everyone in hell?
 - Flavored?
 - Preserved by fire? (for eternity)

Kingdom Values



- For everyone will be salted with fire (49)
- Should this go with verse 48 or 50?
 - With 50 – Sacrifice?
 - Lev. 2:13; Ezek. 43:24

Kingdom Values



- For everyone will be salted with fire (49)
 - Connected with *stumbling*? (43, 45, 47)
 - Salt and fire -> *purification* (Num. 31:21-23; 2 Kings 2:21; Mal. 3:2; 1 Pet. 1:6-7)
 - We will all experience fiery trials that will purify us (i.e. - help us *deny* - 8:34)

Kingdom Values



- The disciples just exhibited selfish ambition (34) and sectarianism (38)
- The *purifying fire* would expose all their wrong values
- They will need to deal radically with what will be exposed (42-48)

Kingdom Values



- What would you use to season salt? (50)
 - Pure salt is useful; tainted salt is useless
- Have salt in yourselves (cf. Matt. 5:13)
 - Godly character, motives, values
- Be at peace with one another
 - Back to verse 34?



So What?

- Do I allow God to define what *good* means?
- Do I *know* how He defines it?
- Am I willing to submit to it? (cf. Rom. 8:28-30)



So What?

- Do I live by God's standards and values, or my own? Do I know the difference?
- Do I see myself as a servant of all?
 - Or is my focus on me and my comfort and desires?