



Let the Cross Shape our Leadership!

Mark 9:30-50

Seven days of prayer and repentance for our leaders:

- Monday** – Made deeply and painfully aware of our selfish agendas in ministry
- Tuesday** – Receive all of God’s people as we do children, with no thought of their accomplishments, their influence, their fame, or their gifts.
- Wednesday** – Die to all exclusive, narrow, and competitive attitudes in ministry.
- Thursday** – Promptly and decisively discard our sin (especially selfishness in ministry) when the Holy Spirit reveals it that we might not be rendered useless.
- Friday** – Rejoice in suffering, rather than complaining when ministry is hard.
- Saturday** – Undone by the call to serve and lose our lives so that it drives us to daily meditation on the cross.
- Sunday** – Enter into the fullness of Jesus’ peace so that we will be salt to the world.

GETTING STARTED: Who is someone you consider a servant? Why? How have you seen them serve?

DIGGING DEEPER: If you are one of the disciples, how would you feel when Jesus asked about the argument? How might receiving the special gift of seeing Jesus transfigured played into this argument? Why does Jesus use the child as an object lesson on true greatness in the kingdom? In light of verse 9:18, what is ironic about verses 38-41? Why is John bothered about these exorcists? How would you describe the core sin issue of the disciples in this passage? What do verses 42-48 say about the serious nature of their sin and all sin? What is the relationship between verses 34 and 50?

LIVING IT OUT: Would people call you a servant? Why or why not? How does Jesus’ definition of success differ from the ideas of success that press on you today? What would it mean for you to live verses 35-37 in your family? Your work? What incentive does Jesus give to do so? When have you been tempted to overlook someone in favor of someone else, who was more like you, powerful, wealthy, etc.? How does feelings of competition, disconnect you from relationship? On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the most radical, how do you deal with sin in your life (especially the sin of self interest)?



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