



Mark: A Journey with Jesus || Demands of Discipleship

Mark 9:41-50

Jesus is beginning to explain his kingdom in terms of the sacrifices required and demands that accompany following him. This can feel scary and intimidating...

- *How do we keep an accurate view of God as a father that loves us, but also respect the requirements of a life that pursues Him?*
- *Which is harder: To think of God as one that demands something drastic from us or as one that forgives everything?*

Read Mark 9:41-50 with your group; read your favorite translation and the Message paraphrase if it is available.

- *Being honest, what are your initial gut-level reactions when you read this text?*
- *What is the connection between verses 41 and 42?*
- *How does hyperbole (an intentional exaggeration to make a point) have a place in your understanding of this text? What is the risk that comes with labeling this hyperbole?*

Jesus is expressing that we should **do whatever is necessary to remove sin** from our lives, and prepare ourselves for the **excruciating pains of repentance** required to do so.

- *How do you know when to remove a temptation from your life? How do you go about practically removing the temptation?*
- *Why is repentance so hard; and why does Jesus seem to compare it to self-mutilation?*

The price required in our repentance could never equal the price paid by Christ on the cross. His sacrifice would be greater than any we would make on our own.

- *How do the alarms of unquenchable judgment help provoke our hearts towards repentance?*
- *What sins in your life do you feel the need to “escape” from?*
 - *What adventures await you on the other side of repentance and escape?*