

Attitudes for Christian Ministry (Mark 9:33-41)

- Transfiguration was followed by a powerful healing of demon possessed boy
- Now on the road they heard Jesus' ominous words about His terrible death (33)
- This was no time for an argument, but one broke out between Peter, James & John
- They were in privileged positions near Christ, & they argued who was the greatest
- They were the inner circle & heard & saw things that the others disciples didn't.
- This must have grieved the Master greatly, He knew what was in their hearts
- When He was in the house, He asked them what they were arguing about (v.33)
- Their consciences may have pricked, because no one would say a word (33,34)
- It was time for Jesus to teach them, so sitting them down he taught them (v35)

I. Ministry with A Servant Attitude (9: 35-37)

- Christ broke the silence saying, if anyone would be first he must be last (35b)
- Radical counter cultural statement to Jewish culture immersed in rank & procedure
- John shows Jesus powerfully illustrating this washing disciples feet (13: 14-16)
- It was convicting from Jesus, but the power to live in it would come at Pentecost
- As Jesus taught this powerful truth, he took a child in His arms to illustrate (36,37)
- Jesus' message: his disciples must receive all God's children with open arms
- This rules out seeking out the powerful & influential to see what they can do for us
- James warned the church of elevating the wealthy & affluent above the poor (2:1-4)

II. Ministry with a Tolerant Attitude (9: 38-41)

- As John heard this & saw these words acted out his conscience was stirred (vs. 38)
- John's words reveal the origins of much exclusivism & narrowness we experience
- John couldn't get over how this man experiences power & fruit in Jesus' name
- John's disciples had done the same thing when Jesus' ministry took off (John 3: 26)
- Joshua, likewise, was not happy with others beside Moses being used of God
- Moses rebuked Joshua & encouraged him to see that God uses others (Num 11: 29)
- John corrected his disciples & encouraged them to see how God uses others (27-30)
- Here in Mark 9, Jesus gives guidance for all time, 'don't stop him...' Mark 9: 39
- Criteria for ministry, is not style, tradition, denomination, but Jesus being exalted
- In God's kingdom there is no place for dominance: if any one would be first, he must be last