

Life Group Notes for the week beginning 20 March 2022

Mark 9:30-50

“Welcome to the War”

Introduction

What spiritual battles do you think Christians in the UK have to fight?

Mark 9:30-37

- 1) What does Jesus teach His disciples about coming events?
- 2) Why don't the disciples want to understand the plain meaning of what Jesus is telling them?

3) What is on the disciples' minds as they travel to Capernaum that may be preventing them from understanding Jesus?

4) How does Jesus define greatness?

5) How does His attitude toward children illustrate His point about greatness?



Mark 9:38-50

- 1) How does Jesus' attitude toward the man casting out demons in Jesus' name differ from the disciples' attitude?
- 2) Virtually all readers agree that Jesus' commands in 9:42-48 are not to be taken literally. What does Jesus teach about discipleship with His use of these graphic pictures?

Living it Out

1. What do you think prevents Christians in the West from hearing the full message of Jesus, including His call to us to take up our cross?
2. In the last book that he wrote, called “The Radical Disciple”, John Stott says this: “Our common way of avoiding radical discipleship is to be selective; choosing those areas in which commitment suits us and staying away from those areas in which it will be costly.” Can you think of areas of Christian discipleship which are often neglected?

Reflection

Tom Wright's commentary on this passage says: “Discipleship is difficult and demands sacrifices. Many today write and speak as if the only purpose in following Jesus were to find personal fulfilment and satisfaction, to follow a way or path of personal spirituality which will meet our felt needs. That is hardly the point. There's a war on. God is at work in the world; so are the forces of evil.” *Mark for Everyone*.