

The Cross Shapes the Life

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Kingdom Ethics 101: ...“Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.” Mark 9:35 NIV

4 SCENES THAT UNDERSCORE THIS KINGDOM ETHIC:

1. Welcoming the _____(ish)

Mark 9:33-37 NIV *They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.*

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

To the point: “Love without seeking reciprocation.”

2. Understanding true _____ ground (don’t die on the wrong hill!)

Mark 9:38-41 NIV *“Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”*

“Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us. Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

To the point: “Beware of our self-serving orientation.”

3. Shocked by the _____ of Sin

Mark 9:42-48 NIV *“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where “the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.”*

To the point: “Putting ourselves ahead of others has dire consequences.”

4. The Recipe for _____ living

Mark 9:49-50 NIV *Everyone will be salted with fire.*

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”

To the point: “Testing leads to value-added living.”

The Ultimate Example

Mark 9:30-32 NIV *They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.” But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.*

To the point: “Abundant Kingdom living comes through death to self.”