

## **“A Whole New World”**

June 22, 2014

Mark 9:30-50

**PROP-** The Kingdom of God & the “spirit of this world” (1 Cor. 2:12) are world’s apart. This SHARP CONTRAST is evident in the disciples’ attitude toward position, ambition & competition vs. perspectives & priorities of Jesus.

### **1. PRIDE—the climate and undercurrent of the “spirit of the world.”**

- THE most subtle & deadly tap root of sin
  - Resists repentance (humility & change)
  - Quenches compassion
  - NOTE: “Do not merely look out for your own interest, but also the interests of others” (Phil. 2:4) (Pride is self-consumed—no room for others) (Yet, humility is not despising/neglecting yourself. *WHO* would want you to do that? NOTE: John 10:10)
- a. PRIDE—HIDES (its true thoughts, expectations & feelings) (v. 30-32)
- “Afraid to ask” (embarrassed; fear of appearing foolish; less than the image they are portraying)
  - Disciples relieved when Peter asked the questions (they also had)
- b. PRIDE—DIVIDES (jealous; competes for sense of value; exalts self by demoting others) (v. 33-37)
- This was a “recurring argument” (pride is the undercurrent of the “spirit of the world”)
  - “Greatest”- a comparative word (Lit.- *larger than; more significant than*)
  - They desired a place of importance (i.e., their own thrones in the wake of a militant Messiah overthrowing Rome)
  - Not only did they compete with one another. They were elitist toward those “outside” their group (NOTE: *Though they couldn’t cast out a demon (9:18)—they were jealous of John’s disciples who could!*)

### **2. In sharp contrast, JESUS declared & demonstrated the values of His world.**

#### **a. CHILDLIKENESS**

- Mark is the only Gospel to record Jesus “holding a child in His arms” (as if to say, “My Kingdom is not about egos, jealousy, pride & positions. It’s about being childlike in the arms of My Father.” Paul calls it, “The Kingdom of the Son He loves!” Colossians 1:13)

- Tell a lot about a culture by the way it treats its most vulnerable members (i.e., “Welcome a child—welcome Me!”)
- Results from knowing WE are WELCOMED as CHILDREN!
- Learning to “be a son/daughter to our Father” (2 Cor. 6:18). “Of such is Kingdom” (Luke 18:16) “In your hearts—made to be like a child to Me.”
- Traits of children—filled with wonder, imaginative, risk-taking, playful, pure, helpful (NOTE: Aramaic- “servant” & “child” same word), and trusting.
- VITAL that we know our true identity as His child: “We must know who we are as children of God, because we cannot consistently behave in a way that is inconsistent with how we perceive ourselves.” Neil Anderson, “Who I Am in Christ”.

**b. DEVOTED (to one another) IN LOVE**

- **We NEED one another**
  - “**Not good to be alone**” (though Adam had God & Eden)
  - “**If you want to go fast—go alone. If you want to go far—go together.**” -African proverb
  - Disciples: “**They’re not with us!”**
  - Jesus: “**Whoever is not against us—is for us!”**
  - **2 mindsets:**
    - “We are the only ones doing it right.”
    - “We are part of a much bigger expression.” (NOTE: “Unity” is “harmony”—not “unison.” (**“With one voice” Rom. 15:6**))
- **“Be AT PEACE with each other” (v. 50)** (*spoken to squabbling disciples*)
  - Gratefully joined to imperfect people; persevering; believing the best; interceding for (*standing in the gaps*).
  - Resisting criticism & accusation (*katagarizo*)
  - See one another’s Hx through His redemptive eyes (NOTE: Sarah laughed at God’s promise, then lied to Him...yet He called her a woman of “**great faith**” (Heb. 11); when God looks back at your life—he doesn’t watch your “bloopers videos”; He looks at your heart)
  - “**He sees the end from the beginning; & the beginning from the end**” (Isaiah 46:10) refusing to judge us by our worst moment!

**c. DEEPLY LOYAL (to Jesus)**

- “Unites himself w/ the Lord is one in spirit w/ Him” (1 Cor. 6:17)
- Sobered by your impact on others (i.e., “millstone...” some of Jesus’ strongest words)
- “Salt”- symbol of loyalty (i.e., opposite of sand; Judas & salt)
- “Fire”- picture of inner purity and passion
- “Be salted with fire”- sacrificial; strongest words- “cut it off; pluck it out”- extravagant devotion responding to great worth (*alabaster box*)