

DISCUSSION NOTES

MAY 7, 2017

Pray and ask God to teach you, help you trust Him more deeply, & strengthen you to live what you learn.

GETTING STARTED

1. Why do you think the song “Amazing Grace” has been so impactful through the years and generations? What chord does it strike in our experience? Why does it resonate so clearly?

DIGGING IN

2. Read Mark 9:38-50. Make 7-10 quick observations about these verses. Who is present? What happens? What emotion do you feel? What is difficult? What is encouraging? What do we learn about God? What do we learn about people?
3. What do we learn about the disciples from their attitude towards the man in verse 38?
4. What logical argument does Jesus make in verses 39-40? How does this correct the disciples?
5. What point is Jesus making in verse 41? Can you think of a few ways this is encouraging?
6. In verses 42-50, Jesus uses several images that are shocking to us. What are the images and how do they strike you? Why do you think Jesus uses such strong imagery? What is he wanting to convey? What does he want those who hear this words to feel?
7. Jesus teaches more about hell than any other person in the Bible. Why is this significant? What does he say here about hell? What are the implications of this?

LIVING IT OUT

8. What stands out most to you in Jesus' teaching here? What is hard for you? What is encouraging?
9. In verses 38-41, Jesus challenges the disciples' self-righteousness, cliquishness, and narrowness. What are some ways that believers today carry on these same wrong attitudes toward other believers, churches, groups, or denominations. What is one way you can apply Jesus' teaching in your own attitudes toward others?
10. Read Matthew 7:3-5 aloud. Why is it important for us to focus on the sin in our own lives more than the sin in the lives of others? Do you personally find this difficult? Is there any struggle or sin that you need to confess to God?
11. Go back and read Mark 8:31 and Mark 9:30-32. Jesus kept telling his disciples that he *must* die and then be raised from the dead, but they did not understand. How do the hard words that Jesus speaks here relate to the hard reality that Jesus “*must suffer many things*” to fulfill his mission? Why did Jesus have to die? What did his death and resurrection accomplish?
12. How does a deeper understanding of the seriousness of sin and hell increase your understanding of the joy of grace and eternal life? How should this cause us to love and worship Jesus even more?