

LESSON 8

THE EYES OF FAITH

MARK 9:2—10:52



1 What would you list as your three most expensive possessions, two most important relationships, and most valuable position?



Read Mark 9:2—10:52 and the following notes:

- ☐ 9:3ff ☐ 9:9, 10 ☐ 9:12, 13 ☐ 9:30, 31 ☐ 9:34 ☐ 9:41, 42
☐ 10:13–16 ☐ 10:17–23 ☐ 10:37 ☐ 10:42–45 ☐ 10:47

2 Why did the disciples find it difficult to understand Jesus when he spoke about rising from the dead (9:30–32)?

3 How could the disciples lapse into an argument about personal greatness at such an important time in their lives and with such an important person in their midst (9:33, 34)?

4 Not everyone who wanted to believe in Jesus was asked to sell his/her possessions. Why did Jesus ask it of the rich man (10:21)?

5 What might have motivated James and John to ask for a special place and special treatment in God’s Kingdom (10:35–37)?

6 How could the blind man have found out about the coming Messiah since he could not read, and about Jesus of Nazareth since he could not see (10:46, 47)?

Wrong expectations prevented people from seeing who Jesus really is. Many of the Jews were expecting a conquering king, not a suffering servant. The disciples could not see him clearly, and the religious leaders were blind to his identity. But the blind man recognized Jesus for who he was. We also have expectations that prevent us from seeing Jesus clearly—expectations about the way God will work in the world, the way he will work in our life, and the position and power he will grant us here on earth. Like the disciples, we need to examine our expectations and take a fresh look at Jesus through the eyes of faith.



7 Wrong expectations “blinded” many Jews to Jesus’ identity. What expectations do you have of him that keep you from seeing who he really is?



8 What false expectations are you holding on to? What views are you secretly afraid of changing?

9 What are you trying to control or possess that Jesus may ask you to give up?

10 What might you see if you took a new look at Jesus and a new look at the way you are living your life?



11 As we progress through life, from time to time we need to stop and take a new look at Jesus. The more life experiences we have, the more we can see in Christ's life that is relevant to ours. How can you take a new look at Jesus at this time in your life?

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A Why is the transfiguration of Jesus important for us (9:2–13)?

B If the disciples had driven out demons before, why couldn't they drive one out of the demon-possessed boy (9:14–29)?

C Why were the disciples afraid to ask Jesus what he meant about his death (9:32)?

D Why would the disciples not want other people to use Jesus' name to work miracles (9:38)? What do Christians do today that is similar?

E How do Jesus' statements in 9:43–50 relate to the temptations we face today?

F Why is the teaching about marriage and divorce recorded in 10:2–12 so difficult for many people to accept today? What is God's ideal for marriage? What are the primary causes of most divorces?

G How might a church unintentionally discourage little children from coming to Christ (see 10:13–16)?

H How can you reflect Christ's values in your relationship with your loved ones?

I In what ways can a person be "rich" (10:17–31)? How can *your* riches keep you from God? What sacrifice might enable you to follow Christ more closely?

J When have you seen outstanding examples of leaders serving others (10:45)? What are some examples you have seen or experienced of leaders "lording it over" others (10:42)?

K What does it mean to be a "slave of all" (10:44)? How can you serve others?