

DYING TO LIVE

6/23/2024 | Pastor Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTION: What are some ways that salt is used?

READ: Mark 9:14-50

FOCUS: Following Christ means we choose the path of *humility*: we depend on God as our source, we reject haughty thoughts, we serve others and we live in submission to Christ.

OBSERVE:

- Jesus' disciples failed to deliver a boy from a demon. Jesus came and cast out the demon. He explained that the faith they needed wasn't through a formula, but a relationship cultivated through prayer, and the humility of depending on God.
- The disciples were arguing about who was the greatest. Jesus told them that whoever wanted to be first must be the very last and the humble servant of everyone.
- John mentioned someone casting out demons in Jesus' name, but was not "following us." The word translated here as "follow" always applies to Jesus, not the disciples. John showed his lack of humility by using this word for himself and the other disciples.
- Jesus tells His disciples they should put away anything that tempts them to stray from submitting to Him.
- Jesus said that our irrevocable commitment to Him (salt) may be tried with fire, but we must be careful not to let it become "unsalted" in any way.

REFLECT:

- Take your "humility temperature." How does it look? What about your "depending-on-Jesus" reading?
- How are you serving Him?
- Is the salt of your commitment to Jesus in danger of losing its flavor?

TAKE ACTION:

- Identify one area in your life where you lack humility. Ask others to help you catch yourself when it happens and to suggest other things you might say or ways you might act in that situation.
- Ask each member of the group how you might serve them.

PRAY: Heavenly Father, Your handiwork fills the universe with glory. I praise your Holy Name. May Your Kingdom reign, and Your Will rule in our lives, city, nation and world. We repent for our stubborn, unbelieving hearts. We ask for Your Holy Spirit to fill us with faith. Increase our hope in You so our faith in the impossible grows. Please accept our lives as living sacrifices and use us as witnesses for the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.