

# THE SURPRISING JESUS

Studies in the Book of Mark

~Week Eleven~

“Humility”

Mark 9:30-50



Life Groups

**A reminder...** This weekly Bible study is connected to the Sunday sermons at UPC. It includes a “Look Back” section to help you reflect on last Sunday’s sermon, and a “Look Up” section to take you through the NEXT passage in the book of Mark. If you miss a sermon, you can always listen to it online at [www.upc-orlando.com](http://www.upc-orlando.com).

## LOOK BACK – Mark 9:14-29

In last Sunday’s sermon, we saw once again how powerful Jesus is. He confronts and casts out an evil spirit from a boy who had been suffering for years without relief. We also learned the importance of prayer. God’s power is released when God’s people pray.

a) Where had Jesus been, who had He been with, and what had He done, immediately before He finds this large crowd embroiled in an argument (vs. 14)? Do you see any significance to the order of these events?

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b) Why were the other 9 disciples arguing with the teachers of the law (vss. 14-18)?

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c) What was Jesus feeling when He spoke the words in vs. 19 of this passage? Do you think He wished the disciples would try to do things on their own, without His help?

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d) In what ways can you identify with the father, who says in vs. 24, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

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e) Did Sunday’s sermon give you any insights or ideas to help you pray with more faith and regularity?

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## LOOK UP – Mark 9:30-50

This passage of Mark's gospel paints a stark contrast between Jesus' humility and our pride. Jesus says He came to suffer on behalf of others. Sadly, through the disciples we learn that our tendency is to strive for attention and success, even at the expense of others.

### Mark 9:30-32 – An Example of Humility

- a) Like many times before, Jesus tries to remain obscure rather than draw a big crowd (vs. 30). Why?

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- b) Jesus has already told the disciples about His coming suffering, death, and resurrection (see 8:31, 9:9-12). Why does He need to do it again (vs. 31)?

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### Mark 9:33-37 – A Struggle with Humility

- a) What do you find ironic about the fact that vs. 34 follows so closely after vs. 31?

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- b) Unfortunately, this would not be the only time the disciples would argue about which one of them was preeminent. Read Luke 22:24-30. Where were the disciples when they had their next argument about this subject?

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- c) What is the purpose of Jesus using a little child (literally, an infant) to get his point across about humility?

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### Mark 9:38-41 – Another Struggle with Humility

- a) Why did the disciples tell the unnamed man to stop trying to drive out demons in the name of Jesus (vs. 38)?

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- b) What do you learn from Jesus' reply to John in vss. 39-41?

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c) Do you think Jesus' view of ministry in vs. 39-41 contains any rebukes for the average American church of today?

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**Mark 9:42-50 – A Call to Humility**

a) What does this passage teach about the destiny of all who refuse to be humble?

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b) What does Jesus really mean when He uses the violent images of cutting off hands and feet and plucking out eyes (vs. 43-47)?

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**LOOK IN – Reflect**

a) What would it look like for you to become “the very last, and the servant of all” (vs. 35)? Be very concrete.

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b) How can you tell the difference between false humility and the real deal?

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c) In light of what you've learned about the disciples in this passage, how would you say you resemble them?

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**LOOK OUT – Apply**

The point of verses 49-50 seems to be that God's people are to strive, by being humble and servant-like, to be positive influences upon others. How do you typically relate to other human beings? Are you “salty” or “flat”? Another way of putting this is to ask: Do you typically try to be last, or first (vs. 35)? What steps of repentance and faith do you need to take?