

DISCUSSION GUIDE

3 Mistakes That Will Hurt Your Spiritual Life The Gospel of Mark — Week 60

ICEBREAKER: What's the worst weather situation you've been in? Explain.

OVERVIEW: The quality of your life is entirely dependent upon the quality of your relationship with God. Another way of putting it is that the fully devoted life is the best life. But there are three mistakes that prevent Christians from having a quality relationship with God, and therefore from living an abundant life. In this discussion we will go deeper with the parable of the mustard seed and learn how to avoid these three mistakes.

1. Read Mark 4:30-34. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. The quality of your life is entirely dependent on the quality of your relationship with God. How have you seen this play out in your own life?
3. The first mistake that will hurt your relationship with God is to only seek fire insurance from Jesus instead of seeking spiritual growth. Some people want just enough religion to get them out of hell and to prevent God from punishing them, but no more. Why do people make this mistake? Have you ever made this mistake? Explain.
4. Spiritual growth means becoming more and more like Christ. Go over the character qualities that God is trying to grow in your life in Galatians 5:22-23. In which areas do you need to grow the most?

5. How has God been growing and changing you lately? What do you need to do to cooperate with Him so that He can continue to grow you?
6. The second mistake that will hurt your relationship with God is to only seek Jesus' friendship instead of His Lordship. When did you change from being a fan of Jesus to giving Him full control of your life, and what led to this decision?
7. What arenas of your life are the hardest to fully surrender to Jesus? Why? What needs to happen for you to fully surrender to Christ?
8. The third mistake that will hurt your relationship with God is to seek favors from Jesus instead of devoting your life to serving Him. Some people see God as their helper, rather than seeing themselves as God's servants. What is God trying to accomplish in the world, and what are some ways that you can serve God with your life?
9. What do you need to do to become more useful to God's service?

The Last Word: Jesus doesn't just want to give you fire insurance. He doesn't just want to be friends. He doesn't just want to give you favors. He wants to grow you to maturity, to be your Lord, and He wants you to serve Him with your life.