



April 23, 2023

Kevin Sneed

Mark 9:38-50

Title: Water, Millstones, Salt and Fire

1. Discuss this quote at the beginning of Kevin's sermon:

"The disciples are simply missing the message of the radical inclusion of the Gospel. Jesus is insistent that any and all who seek to follow him are a part of the reconstitution of this new community known as the Kingdom of God. It is organized, not around boundaries of who is in and who is out, but of who is following Jesus as their rabbi."

2. Slowly read Mark 9: 38-50 in its entirety. Why do you think Jesus chooses the descriptions and word pictures that he does? What is a theme that resonates with you in particular from these verses?
3. **Followers of Jesus resist practices of arrogant exclusivity (38-40)**
 - How do we hold tightly to our essential and non-essential values of our CPC Community and at the same time hold loosely to the non-essential values held by other church communities?
 - Do you see **Unity in essentials, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity** as a good principle for the church and for yourself personally? Why or Why not?
4. **Followers of Jesus cultivate humble unity (41-42)**
 - What are the ways that you can hold community with those across our cultural differences?

- How might Jesus be exposing things you must confess that are hindering the way of Jesus in you?

5. Followers of Jesus pursue radical faithfulness to Him (43-50)

- What is it that comes to mind when you think about what causes you or others to stumble?
- As you read these harsh words of Jesus, what is it that you need to confess and walk away from?
- Personally, what practices of hypocrisy and derision are not in alignment with the formation of a people and a community formed in the way of Jesus?