

## **Don't Stop Them**

Mark 9:30 – 10:16

by Don Falkos

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Jesus told his disciples, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed and killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead." They didn't understand what he meant.

Then the disciples started arguing about which of them was the most important. Jesus said, "Don't long to be honored; seek to serve others."

Jesus took a child in his arms and said, "Whoever welcomes a child because of me, welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me, welcomes the One who sent me."

John interrupted, "Teacher, we saw a man using your name to expel evil spirits and we stopped him because he isn't part of our group."

Jesus said, "Don't stop him! Anyone who's not an enemy is an ally."

Another time Jesus said, "If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. If your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out. It's better to enter the Kingdom of God maimed than to remain whole and be thrown into hell."

When some Pharisees asked Jesus about divorce, he said, "Moses allowed divorce as a concession to your weakness of character. God intended marriage to be permanent."

Some people brought their children to Jesus hoping he might bless them. The disciples tried to send them away. But Jesus became angry and said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them. The Kingdom of God belongs to children like these. If you don't accept the Kingdom of God the way a little child does, you will never, ever enter it."

Then he hugged the children, placed his hands on them, and blessed them.