

**Mark 9:38-41 (NIV)**

- 1) When John says the one casting out the demons in the name of Christ *was not one of us*, he is indicating that this person was ...
  - a) **A** - not following Jesus as they were.
  - b) **B** - not one of the 12.
- 2) The LABC comments:

The disciples had told the man to stop because he was not one of the group, that is, not one of the chosen Twelve. The incident has special irony considering that this unknown man apparently had success driving out demons while the disciples, who had been given special power to do so, had recently failed (9:18).

... it goes on to say ...

The disciples had been incorrect to stop the man from exorcising demons in Jesus' name; and incidentally, they were also incorrect in their supposition that they alone should have a monopoly on Jesus' power. Jesus explained that no one would do such a miracle as exorcising a demon in Jesus' name and then turn around and publicly speak against Jesus.

- 3) Now, if we take John's statement at face value and assume that Jesus also knew that as truth, we can know certain things about this individual.
  - a) He was actually "casting out demons" – not just trying selfishly as were the sons of Sceva in Acts 19.
  - b) From the success and what Jesus says, I think we can assume he was not one of the persons that Jesus was speaking of in Matthew 7:21-22

**Matt 7:21-23 (NIV)**

- a) He must have known Jesus
- b) He must have had faith in Jesus
- c) He must have known what he was teaching,
- d) He must have been doing other things that said he was truly following God's will.
- e) He must have been like the man Jesus describes in the next verse in Matthew (7:24)

**Matt 7:24 (NIV)**

- 4) In Mark's gospel, Jesus concludes the description of one who should not be stopped in what they are doing as;

## ***Gospel of Mark – NOTES***

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“anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.”

- 5) Jesus is saying clearly that one does not have to be a member of the disciples to be His follower and obey God.
- 6) But, there is a nuance here that is often missed – what Jesus is saying goes beyond that.
- 7) Again, the LABC comments:

Not only did the man who exorcised demons serve Christ's kingdom in his stand against Satan, but even someone who offered a cup of water **to a person who bears the name of Christ** was also serving the kingdom. Good treatment of Christ's representatives is important to God (9:37).

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

***Does there seem to be a connection back to the last incident Mark relates about the disciples arguing about who was the greatest among them?***

Perhaps their jealousy was not just personal – perhaps it extended outward from the group as well – perhaps they were jealous of this person who was able to do what they were not able to?

- 1) In this next section however, Jesus does layout some particularly strong requirements for “True Discipleship”.