

Sermon Notes – 07.16.2023 Commands of Jesus –

“Do Not Hinder Him”

Mark 9:38-41 John said to Him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to prevent him because he was not following us." 39 But Jesus said, "Do not hinder him, for there is no one who will perform a miracle in My name, and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me. 40 "For he who is not against us is for us. 41 "For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward."

If ever there was a group of Christians who had the right to say,

"We got it right and You Got it Wrong. "These were them.

But Jesus said:

"Do not hinder him, There is no one who will perform a miracle in My name, and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me

Jesus points to the bigger picture:

- If God is ministering through them, they probably won't oppose Jesus.
- They are not against us.
- They are pressing in the same direction we are.

Sometimes God Uses People for His Purposes that We Wouldn't Choose

Focus on Doing What God Gave Us to Do – Don't miss opportunities to build people up.

1 Peter 4:8-10 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint. 10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

Titus 3:1-2 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, 2 to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

Being our brother's / sister's cupbearer - Working for the benefit of other believers

Matthew 7:3-5 "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye?"

Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

An Edifying Focus Leads to Edifying Others

Philippians 4:8-9 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. **9** The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Jesus doesn't say 'never hinder anyone who is being used by God..'

Ephesians 4:11-15 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. **14** As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; **15** but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

2 Timothy 2:24-25 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

We Have Many Who Oppose Us – Jesus Spoke those Words in a Season of Opposition.

Sometimes we need to recognize that 'he who is not against us is for us.'

Jesus had His own ways of addressing opposition:

- He revealed people's motives to them
- He sought peace
- He applied Scripture
- He prayed
- He sometimes remained silent
- He Loved

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