**Sermon Notes**

**“The Unknown Exorcist”**

Mark 9:38–41 (NIV84)

38 “Teacher,” said John, “we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.” 39 “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, 40 for whoever is not against us is for us. 41 I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.

***“We told him to stop”***

1. “That’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (entitlement/privilege)
2. The kingdom comes through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (“Who is the greatest?”)
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over the success of others

***“Whoever is not against us is for us.”***

Q: What is our fundamental posture towards those Christians who are seeking to minister “in Jesus’ name,” but who “aren’t following us”?

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Philippians 1:15-18

Q: What is our fundamental posture towards non-Christians who are seeking to do good, but who “aren’t following us”?

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Reflections**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ aren’t in charge of God’s kingdom.
2. God’s kingdom breaks forth through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people, with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ theology, with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_methodology, with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ motives.
3. Those doing different ministry to us aren’t a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Non-Christians doing good should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. When good things are happening, celebrate and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

***“Whoever is not against us is for us.”***

Colossians 1:21 (NIV84)

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

Romans 5:10 (NIV84)

10 For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

**Questions for discussion:**

1. Was there any fresh or “new to me” insight you gained from this sermon?

2. Do you ever find yourself envious of other Christians? What do you believe lies at the root of your resentment towards them?

3. Look up Matthew 23:37, Romans 3:11-12, Isaiah 64:6. Do you think these verses contradict the idea that non-Christians can do good in this world? Why or why not? Can you think of another case where God celebrates the good done by a non-Christian person or nation?

4. Why is it important to remember the principle of Jeff’ Reflection #2?

5. How do you believe this emphasis on celebrating those who are seeking to do good in Jesus’ name fits with the call of Galatians 1:8?

6. What would it look like for you to live out this message? What would it look like for our church to live out this message? (practical ideas)