

Session 7

The Cost of the Cross - 2

Mark 9:30-37

By Betty Ann Cody

Mark is so frustrated! He says he thinks Jesus is just obsessed with his own death. He's a really young man, but he keeps telling these men Mark's running with that he's going to be captured and killed. Not only that, he says he's going to come back to life. Who ever heard of such a thing. I wish someone would just ask him what in the world he is talking about. But they're all scared to ask. They just try to look like they know.

Another story Mark told us was of a time they were at Capernaum, right close to the sea shore. Jesus asked them what their conversations had been about as they traveled that day. Not even Peter spoke up because they had been arguing about who was the greatest. And he had just been telling them to be servants. Be the least one. He must have heard parts of their conversation because he once again told them that to be first they must be last. Figure that one out. But then he called a little child to him and picked up the child and held her and said they must take Jesus like he had taken the child. And once again he referred to "the one who sent me." He speaks of that one as Father. As hard as I think about what Mark is telling us, I'm still confused.

It's only natural for these men who have been with him to claim a pecking order. That's just the way we are. The human condition. This teacher wants to change the human condition. That's a big order, Jesus.

Thank God for that cool breeze. It's been so hot.