

October 30, 2017
Mark 9:31-40

WHO IS THE GREATEST?

I. Introduction: Who Is The Greatest?"

³⁰They left that place and passed through Galilee.

Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, **“The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.”** ³²But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

II. Who Is The Greatest?

A. A Debate:

³³They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, **“What were you arguing about on the road?”** ³⁴But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

B. A Demonstration:

³⁵Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

³⁶He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, 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.”

C. A Declaration:

³⁸“Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone 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. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

III. Conclusion and Application:

POINTS TO PONDER Week of October 30th to November Mark 9:31-40

Open It

1. What makes a person look prestigious or "respectable" in our society?
2. *Whom do you consider to be a great person? Why?

Explore It

3. What did Jesus ask the disciples when they got to Capernaum? (9:33)
4. Why did the disciples suddenly stop talking? (9:33-34)

5. *How did Jesus get His disciples' attention? (9:33-34)
6. What does the disciples' argument tell you about their understanding of who Jesus was and why He had come? (9:33-34)
7. Why were the disciples embarrassed to answer Jesus' question? (9:34)
8. *How did Jesus explain what it means to be great? (9:35)
9. What kind of person tries to be a servant? (9:35)
10. *How did Jesus illustrate His point? (9:36)
11. What did Jesus say about children? (9:37)
12. How is it possible to welcome God? (9:37)

Get It

13. *What does it mean to be a servant of all?
14. What does it mean to welcome someone in Jesus' name?
15. What does it mean to be great in God's eyes?
16. How can a person become great in God's eyes?
17. Why do you think Jesus used a child to illustrate His point?
18. How can you welcome someone in Jesus' name?
19. What sorts of issues cause ill will among Christians today?

20. How do we strive to be the "greatest"?
21. *How can you become a "servant of all" in your everyday actions and attitudes?
22. What does this passage tell us about Jesus' attitude toward children and other weaker members of society?
23. How should we treat people of "lower status"?
24. What attitude change do you want to make in light of the principles you discovered in this passage?

Apply It

25. *What is one concrete way you can serve another person this week?
26. In what specific situation can you consciously choose to be a servant for Christ's sake sometime this next week?