



WHO IS THE GREATEST?

Mark 9:31-37



Introduction

- Jesus told of his D B R
- And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. **Mark 8:31**
- For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day." **Mark 9:31**

Introduction

- Jesus told of his D B R
- They were afraid to ask about this again
- But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him. **Mark 9:32**
- They began to dispute over who is the greatest.
- ³³ Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" ³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who *would be the* greatest. **Mark 9:33-34**

What is the connection?

- Jesus would be gone.
- Who would take over His mission and work?
- Who is “next in line” for the leadership role?

What did Jesus teach about greatness?

- Opposite of the Harvard Business School model.
- Who wants to be first – must be last.
- And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." **Mark 9:35**

What did Jesus teach about greatness?

- Learn from a child
- Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, **Mark 9:36**
- See also **Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 10:13-16**

What did Jesus teach about greatness?

- Learn from a child
- "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me." **Mark 9:37**
- Learn humility
- Learn forgiveness

What is true greatness?

- Not at the expense of others
- Don't have to be a Ph D or powerful
- Anyone, anywhere, anytime, can be great
- True greatness satisfies – It's own reward

2 Qualities of Greatness

■ Self-confidence

- *In crisis* – emergency, deal with unexpected
- *In deliberation* – deep thinker, willing to express ideas
- *In attitude* – not arrogant, boastful

2 Qualities of Greatness

- Self-confidence

- Humility

- *Toward sin – not “holier than thou”*
- *Toward Service – Wash feet (John 13), cup of water, fix a flat, back a cake*
- *Toward self – Not pride, arrogant, not jealous, wiling to delegate and let go*

The Beginning of Greatness

- Humility
- Service
- Obedience