

YOU WERE MADE FOR GREATNESS

MARK 9:30-37

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – JANUARY 22, 2023

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 9:30-37 ESV

30 They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, 31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” 32 But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him. 33 And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” 34 But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. 35 And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” 36 And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, 37 “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

SERMON RECAP

God Wants us to be Truly Great

- See divine sovereignty and human responsibility.
 - God delivers His Son over to die.
 - God was in sovereign, ultimate control over the death of Jesus, AND people were responsible.
- See divine love and human sinfulness.
 - God loves us so much that He came to humanity – became man in Jesus – to be killed by the men and women He came to save.
 - Jesus lived a sinless life, suffered the penalty we deserve on the cross, and rose from the dead to eternal life so that we could trust Him as Lord and Savior of our lives so that our sins can be forgiven and we can have a relationship with God and eternal life with Him.

The Quest for Greatness

- Sin corrupts our quest for greatness.
 - We compare ourselves with others.
 - We crave approval from others.
 - Worldly greatness = Superiority above others + acclaim from others.
- Jesus redefines our quest for greatness.
 - Be selfless in serving others.
 - Be satisfied with having God.
 - True greatness = Lowly service on earth + glory to God in heaven.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does the passage say?

1. Read Mark 9:30-37 aloud as a group and take some time to let group members share observations about them. Don't move into interpretation or application, simply share what you observe.
 - What do you see in Mark 9:30-32?
 - What do you observe about Jesus and about His disciples in Mark 9:33-34?
 - What are the key components of Jesus' definition of greatness in Mark 9:35-37?
 - Summarize Mark 9:30-37 in your own words.

What does the passage mean?

1. Jesus predicts His delivery, death, and resurrection. (Mk. 9:30-32)
 - Why would Jesus teach His disciples privately in this passage, and what could that imply to us?

- What is significant about the fact that the Son of Man would be delivered into the hands of men? (Isa. 53:6, 11; Rom. 3:25, 4:25, 8:32; Acts 4:28; Jn. 3:16)
 - Why didn't the disciples understand and why not ask Jesus what He meant? (Mt. 17:9, 23)
2. Jesus' disciples argue about greatness. (Mk. 9:33-34)
 - Jesus is all-knowing. Why did He ask His disciples what they were discussing?
 - What do you imagine were the disciples' key focus and points about their own greatness?
 3. Jesus redefines greatness for all time. (Mk. 9:35-37)
 - What kind of service does Jesus reference in verse 35? (Mt. 23:8-11; Mk. 10:31, 43-44; Lk. 22:24-27; Jn. 13:1-17) What is a key component of gospel service?
 - The words child and servant are the same in Aramaic – What does Jesus' demonstration with the child illustrate? How is humility a key attribute of greatness?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How can we apply these passage to our lives?

1. Sin corrupts our quest for greatness.
 - Where are you comparing yourself to others for self-satisfaction and self-gratification?
 - How does your pride appear and where do you seek acclaim from others?
 - How and where are you pursuing worldly greatness? And, what must you do to stop pursuing worldly greatness? (Superiority above others + Acclaim from others)
2. Jesus redefines our quest for greatness.
 - • Greatness is selfless service to others. Where do/can you practice selfless service?
 - • How do/can you serve the seemingly unimportant, insignificant people around you?
 - • How does your selfless service to others demonstrate your desire for God and satisfaction with Him? (Mt. 6:1-4)
 - • What must you do to pursue true greatness? Recognize that Christ Himself makes you able to pursue biblical greatness. (Lowly service on earth + glory to God in heaven)

LEADER NOTES

Church Group Leaders, please share the following information with your Church Group:

1. This is the final week in our churchwide commitment to 21 days of prayer and fasting as a church. Please take some time to process these three weeks with your Church Group.
 - What is God doing in our lives? How is He answering prayers? What prayers should we boldly pray this week? What long-term rhythms & habits of prayer should we continue?
2. Please try and make a point to REALLY promote trips these in the next two weeks (Note: Most applications will close the next month).

2023 Trips -MBC sends short-term teams to help fuel the spread of the gospel among all nations. We invite all MBC members to consider joining a short-term trip. Applications are now open for late spring and early summer trips to the Arabian Peninsula, Central Asia, France, Italy, the Middle East, and more! Visit mcleanbible.org/globaloutreach to see open trips and apply today!