

TRUE GREATNESS
LET'S GO
Mark 9:30-50
8-22-21

I. Greatness Includes Obeying God. Mark 9:30-32

Mark 9:30-32 – "They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And He did not want anyone to know, 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.' But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask Him."

Matthew 28:20 - "...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

John 14:15 – "Jesus said, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.'"

Romans 12:1 – "...offer your bodies...to God—this is your true and proper worship."

Luke 11:28 - Jesus replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice."

II. Greatness Includes Serving. Mark 9:33-37

Mark 9:33-37 – "And they came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, 'What were you discussing on the way?' But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. 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.' And He took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, 'Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.'"

David Brainerd "It is sweet to be nothing and less than nothing that Christ may be all in all."

Mark 9:35 – "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."

1. Position.

1 Timothy 4:12 - "Let no one despise you for your youth..."

2. Permission.

1 Timothy 4:12 - "...but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

3. People development.

2 Timothy 2:2 - "And what you have heard from Me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

III. Greatness Includes Full Allegiance. Mark 9:38-41

Mark 9:38-41 – "John said to Him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in My name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me. For the one who is not against us is for us. For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward."

Matthew 10:37 – "Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."

Mark 9:42-50 - "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.' For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Growing Deeper This Week

1. Some skeptics contend that the disciples made up the resurrection story. How does Mark 9:31-32 argue against this notion?
2. How is human achievement, performance and pride viewed in our current culture? Is this the same kind of pride that is condemned in the Bible, or is it different?
3. How does Jesus redefine aspiring to greatness and seeking a reward?
4. How does Mark 9:39-40 support cooperation among Christian churches of various denominations? Do we tend to resist such ideas today? Why?
5. What are some examples of giving a "cup of water"?
6. Can hell still serve as a motivation for repentance, or should Christ followers avoid speaking about hell?
7. Why did Jesus use such strong hyperbole to warn us about temptation and hell? Does this mean His words are not literally true?
8. What are some actions Christ followers can do today to be "salt" (add godly flavor, influence, and help preserve society in order to thrive with God) in their families, schools, and neighborhoods?
9. Discuss the 4 levels of leadership and where you are with your family, friends, and others. Read Proverbs 11:2 and James 4:6. Pray for one another to be truly great in God's Kingdom.