

The Greatest in the Kingdom

Text: Mark 9:33-37

Context - After spending time with his disciples on a private retreat and discussing for the second time His upcoming death and resurrection, Jesus now confronts the disciples on who will be the greatest in the upcoming Kingdom.

To be the greatest in the kingdom...

1. _____ last place (vs. 33-35)

- A. The disciples' concept of greatness and leadership, drawn from their culture, needed to be completely reversed. Not those who lord their position over others are great in God's kingdom, but those who humbly serve others. (John MacArthur)
- B. In Jesus' value system, being first did not come through aggressiveness and privilege but through humility (Mt 18:4) and by being servant of all.

2. _____ all (vs. 35b)

- A. Following the example of Jesus, we are not to lord our status over others in pride, but humble ourselves to the service of others. Philippians 2:5-7 "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."
- B. We are most like Christ when we are Serving others: Matthew 20:28 "even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

3. _____ the "least of these" (vs. 36-37)

- A. While the disciples were concerned about their own status in heaven, Jesus was calling them to look upon and care for those of low status here on earth.
- B. Where the sinful world encourages a "dog-eat-dog" mentality, Christians are to compassionately and aggressively pursue and assist those whom society marginalizes and ignores.