*21* STUDY OF MARK 2020

How to Be the Greatest

Mark 9:30-37

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

1. What did Jesus privately teach his disciples a second time? (30-31) Compared to 8:31, what did Jesus further reveal to the disciples? How was their reaction the same and yet different from the first time? (32, 8:32) What does this show about them?
2. Afterwards, on the way to Capernaum, what did the disciples argue about? (33-34; Luke 22:24) What does it mean to be “the greatest”? Why do people (including the disciples) want to be the greatest? What do people do to become the greatest?
3. What did Jesus teach about the way to be greatest in God’s eyes? (35) What does “*the very last and the servant of all*” imply about how we should view (firstly) ourselves and (secondly) those around us?
4. How did Jesus practically illustrate this teaching? (36-37) Why is it very difficult to welcome (serve) a little child? In what sense are those around us like “little children”? What happens when we welcome (serve) them in Jesus’ name?
5. In what sense did Jesus turn the *worldly meaning* of greatness upside down in this passage? How did Jesus personally put this teaching into practice? (31; Phil 2:5-8[[1]](#footnote-1)) What hope can you have as you follow Jesus’ example? (Phil 2:9[[2]](#footnote-2))
1. **Phil 2:5-8:** In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6Who, being in very nature a God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Phil 2:9:** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name [↑](#footnote-ref-2)