

How do I win? Mark 9:30-37

Jesus models unexpected greatness Mark 9:30-32

Mark 9:31 – *“The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him...”*

- Jesus modeled servanthood, self-sacrifice and humility through the incarnation and crucifixion.
- Jesus’ words about His death and resurrection would have been incomprehensible to the disciples.
 - Death: The Messiah was destined to establish an eternal kingdom of justice and righteousness. Why would this person die?
 - Resurrection: Jews, who believed in the resurrection, believed it would take place at the end of time when all would rise and be judged. An individual rising was outside of their worldview.

Jesus teaches unexpected greatness Mark 9:33-35

Mark 9:35 – *“If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all”*

- If you want to be first, be last and be a servant
- Cultural context of extreme social hierarchy and class distinctions
- Other examples of debates over greatness and Jesus’ unexpected way
 - Mark 9:28-31
 - Mark 10:35-45
 - Matthew 20:16
- Pride and Self-Focus are opposite of Jesus’ way
- Jesus’ unexpected way requires leaders to be servants

Jesus shows unexpected greatness Mark 9:36-37

Mark 9:37 – *“Whoever receives one child like this in my name receives Me...”*

- Little children were one of the lowest in society, yet Jesus valued them
- Culturally, we love and value children today. But who do we turn away? Who do you not value?
- Matthew 25:44-45
- James 2:5

Response:

1. Examine your heart for servanthood and desire to be first. Pray God gives you the heart He desires for you to have.
2. Look for opportunities to serve. Fill out The Card (located in the seat rack in front of you or at calvarylife.org/card) and check the box of an area you can serve within the church or serve in some other arena outside the church.

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

1. What do you think about how the disciples couldn't understand Jesus when He told them about His coming death and resurrection? What do you think are the things we are blind to these days?
2. How do you think living in a successful and prosperous country like the USA affects our ability to understand the "upside down" nature of the kingdom of God? How does it affect you personally?
3. In the first century, servants and children were not valued. What people do we not value today? What people do you personally struggle with valuing and how can God change that in you?

Next Steps:

CONNECT IN A LIFEGROUP - Learn about the ongoing small group communities meeting this morning at Calvary, as well as off-campus LifeGroups meeting throughout the week, by marking "LifeGroups" on The Card (located in the seat racks), visiting Connection Point in the Lobby today, or browsing our website at calvarylife.org/lifegroups

SERVE AT CALVARY - There are many ways to give back by serving with Children, Students, Greeters, Safety, Medical and more. Take a next step today by filling out The Card and dropping it in the offering, or learn more by stopping in the Lobby today to learn how you can help or visit our website to browse opportunities at calvarylife.org/serve