

Mark 9:33-37

Will You Abandon The Desire For Status
To Be A Servant of God?

Structure of Mark 9:33-50

Inclusio

Mark 9:33 . debate about who is greatest

- %Child+or %little one+ vss. 37, 42
- %to my name+ vss. 37, 38, 39, 41
- Risk of losing %saltiness+ vss. 49, 50

Mark 9:50 . %be at peace with one another+

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The Disciple's Desire For Status

Mark 9:33-34 They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, %What were you discussing on the way?+But they kept silent, for on the way **they had discussed with one another** which of them was the **greatest**.

Mark 9:32 But they did not understand this statement, and **they were afraid to ask Him.**

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Service Now – Glory Later

Mark 9:35 Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, **%f anyone wants** to be first, he shall be last of all and **servant of all.**+

Mark 8:34 **%f anyone wishes** to come after Me, he must **deny himself**, and take up his cross and follow Me.

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Disciples Must Forsake The Need For Status

Mark 9:36-37 Taking **a child**, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, **%W**hoever receives one **child like this in My name** receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me.+

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Application

1. We must realize that the world's concept of status has no place in the church.
2. The call to forsake status now necessitates that we believe the promises of God.
3. The only status that matters is that of being a son or daughter of God.

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1. Worldly Status Has No Place In The Church

James 2:2-4 For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, %You sit here in a good place,+and you say to the poor man, %You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,+**have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?**

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2. Forsaking Status Now Requires Believing The Promises of God

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be **rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised** to those who love Him?

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2. Forsaking Status Now Requires Believing The Promises of God

Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, **refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter**, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; **for he was looking to the reward.**

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3. The Only Status That Matters

Mark 9:37a Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me. +

John 8:34-35 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. +

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3. The Only Status That Matters

Ephesians 1:3-5 NET Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ. For he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that we may be holy and unblemished in his sight in love. He did this by predestining us to adoption as his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the pleasure of his will.

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3. The Only Status That Matters

- Not an excuse for slothful living (Pr. 6:6-9)
- Not an excuse for disobeying authority (Rom. 13:1)

Psalm 84:10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

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