

SERMON NOTES



This week's sermon

The Power to Rule

Mark 9:30-37

1. In the gospel of Mark, we have a familiar theme: the Christ must suffer, and no one sees it coming.
2. Both now and in the past, children are not seen as the most influential people in society. Powerful people don't aim to spend time with children.
3. Welcoming every single person in the name of Jesus is the goal. Do not think that greatness comes from competing with one another to be the most holy, or the most powerful among men. Rather, greatness comes by purposely, voluntarily, and intentionally serving other people. If greatness in heaven comes from serving the least, then the greatest is the one who is servant of all.

Implications:

1. Everybody matters.
2. We seek a different kind of Kingdom.
3. This world is upside down.

Digging Deeper Into the Message

Read Mark 9:33-37, Matthew 20:20-28 and Luke 22:24-27. How does Jesus describe the way to becoming first or great?

Read John 13:12-17. With this passage and the previous ones, how would you describe Jesus?

Read Romans 8:26-30 and 2 Corinthians 3, noting verses 17 & 18. How do these passages explain how we become more like Jesus?

Read Romans 8:31-39 and list all the ways that it describes what God has done and is doing to empower us to become more like Jesus.

Take time to read and soak in Jesus's prayer in John 17. Write down the ways He describes His followers and what He prays for them.

Community Group

Icebreaker: When some of the restrictions are lifted, what is the first thing you'd like to do?

Discussion Questions: Read Mark 9:30-37.

Tell about a time that someone told you they saw something coming and you later realized that they were right. Read the first point on the MAP. Remember when you didn't fully understand why Jesus had to die in order for us to be right with God; how did you think about the cross then?

Read MAP point #2. Jesus taught his followers such a powerful lesson as He took time to be with children. How does this make you stop and think about who you spend time with and why? Tell about a time that you ended up being the one blessed by spending time with someone who is often marginalized.

Read the third MAP point and reread Mark 9:37. What are your thoughts on this counter-cultural idea? Who is the greatest in the Kingdom and how can we become more like Him?

Read the 3 implications. What did Pastor Mike mean by, "This world is upside down?" (See 1 Corinthians 1:20-31 if needed.)

What other points would like to talk about from the sermon, application or Digging Deeper?

Application: Identify people in your life that tend to be overlooked by others and take time to connect with them this week.