

Sermon Notes

"Jesus on How to be Great"

Mark 9:30-41

May 17, 2026

5. When have you felt best about being a servant? How could you serve others this week in the style Jesus is commending here?

6. What is ironic about John's statement (Mark 9:38) in light of Mark 9:18? How might this concern John?

7. Jesus told the Twelve "Whoever is not against us is for us" (Mark 9:40). What application do you see in this episode for Christians today?

8. Think of a rival at work or in a group you're involved in. How do you typically respond to that person? Ask God to help you see that person as he does.

9. What does it mean to minister/serve in Jesus' name (9:37,38,39,41)? Try to give some concrete examples. How does this relate to Jesus' statement in 9:40?

10. Who needs a "cup of water" from you? How could you offer a "cup of water" to those in need?

Let's Pray:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 05-17-2026

Questions adapted from James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, p. 87; Lyman Coleman, et al., eds., Serendipity New Testament for Groups, Serendipity House, Littleton, CO, 1986, p. 108; James Hoover, Mark: Follow Me, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1999, pp. 48-49; Ted Dorman, Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Life Change Series: Mark, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1995, pp. 88-89.

Getting Started:

1. How would you define success? Would you say you've achieved it?

Digging Deeper:

Read Mark 9:30-41.

2. What events prior to their argument (9:33-34) might have prompted the Twelve to quarrel over which of them was "the greatest"? What does this argument tell us about their understanding of who Jesus was and why He came?
3. According to Jesus, what is the true measure of greatness (9:35)?
4. Thinking back through all the Gospel of Mark to this point, how have we seen this principle of the first and the last in action?