

Recap of 10/8/23 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 9:30-37):

1. We see, once again, in this passage that Jesus' teaching is counter-intuitive to the way we think. The way to life is death...death to self-will, to self-seeking to self-serving; the way to glory is suffering. Here in Mark 9:30-37, Jesus challenges the Disciples and us that true greatness is a matter of service, not status. Humility and servanthood are hallmarks of the disciples of Jesus.
- "Here [9:35] 'servant' depicts one who attends to the needs of others freely, not one in a servile position (as a doulos, a slave). Jesus did not condemn the desire to improve one's position in life, but He did teach that greatness in His kingdom was not determined by status but by service."
(Grassmick)
- "[Greatness] is a matter of sacrifice not superiority." (Richards)
2. This passage (especially 9:30-32) illustrates for us just how few times we are thinking God's thoughts. Jesus is instructing His disciples about His coming death and resurrection, and they are consumed with thoughts of which of them is the greatness. Let's strive not to miss what Jesus is telling us by His Word.
3. The world's view is that greatness is based upon the greatest intellect, social connections, money, leadership skills, power. What Jesus taught was a reversal of the world's view/values.
4. "It is not for nothing that He [Jesus] reminds us again that He must die. He would have us know that His death was the great end for which He came into the world. He would remind us that by that death the great problem was to be solved, how God could be just, and yet justify sinners. He did not come upon earth merely to teach, and preach, and work miracles. He came to make satisfaction for sin, by His own blood and suffering on the cross. Let us never forget this. The incarnation, and example, and words of Christ are all of deep importance. But the grand object which demands our notice in the history of His earthly ministry, is His death on Calvary." (Ryle) (See Acts 2:23; Romans 4:25; 8:32; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:4-6)
5. Oswald Chambers asks: "Are you willing to spend and be spent; not seeking to be ministered unto, but to minister? Some saints cannot do menial work and remain saints because it is beneath their dignity."