

*They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Mark 9:33-37 (NIV)*

## **True Greatness**

**You have this desire for greatness within you. You don't want your life to be unwisely used or misspent. You don't want your life to amount to nothing or accomplish little. You want to be able to look back over your life with no regrets. Have I read you right? Do I understand you well?** Nothing is hidden from you. You know me better than I know myself. You know my words before I speak them. You know my thoughts before I think them. **So, you will not try to deny that you have a desire to be great within you?** No, I will not. **You are a little uncomfortable with the thought of being great. You are a little worried that desiring to be great might be an improper desire. Did you notice that I did not condemn my disciples for wanting to be great?** Yes, I noticed that. **Did you notice that I helped define what true greatness is and looks like?** Yes, I noticed that as well. **That's good.**

**Let me clear something up for you. Desiring greatness is not an improper desire. Where do you think that desire in you came from?** It did not come from me of that I am certain. **No, it did not. I placed that desire within you. Let me hear what kind of greatness you are hoping for?** I want to know you intimately. I want to hear your voice. I want to live and walk in an ongoing dialogue of prayer with you. I want to love and follow and serve you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. **That would be great.** I want to be used by you. I want to go and do what you ask of me. I want you to be able to accomplish your purposes and fulfill your plans in and through my life. I want to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. I want to shine brightly for you in this world. I want people to be drawn to you because of what they see of you in and through my life. **That would be great.** One day I want to be able to look back over my life with you and hear you say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." I know that only you can make me faithful. I know that only you can make me fruitful. So, I want to come to full rely on you. **That would be great.** These are the desires of greatness that I have on my mind. These are the desired of greatness that I have in my heart. These are the prayers of my heart and mind. I want to be great for you. **I will hear and answers these prayers of yours.** Thank you, Lord.

*Lord, I do have desires. I do have ambitions. It is my desire and ambition to know and love and follow and serve you. I am willing to be last of all. I am willing to give myself fully in service to you and to others. Help me to do great things with and for you. Amen*

**Becoming Like Christ** *Servant Of All*

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

NIV Mark 9:33-37

**Becoming Like Christ** *Servant Of Everyone*

After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?" But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else." Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me."

NLT Mark 9:33-37

**Becoming Like Christ** *Servant Of All*

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

NRSV Mark 9:33-37

**Becoming Like Christ** *Servant Of All*

And they arrived at Capernaum; and when [they were] in the house, He asked them, What were you discussing and arguing about on the road? But they kept still, for on the road they had discussed and disputed with one another as to who was the greatest. And He sat down and called the Twelve [apostles], and He said to them, If anyone desires to be first, he must be last of all, and servant of all. And He took a little child and put him in the center of their group; and taking him in [His] arms, He said to them, Whoever in My name and for My sake accepts and receives and welcomes one such child also accepts and receives and welcomes Me; and whoever so receives Me receives not only Me but Him Who sent Me.

AMP Mark 9:33-37

**Becoming Like Christ** *Servant Of All*

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. Sitting down, He called the twelve and "said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." Taking a child, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, "Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me."

NASB Mark 9:33-37

**Becoming Like Christ** *Servant Of All*

And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

ESV Mark 9:33-37

**Becoming Like Christ** *Servant Of All*

Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest. And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."

NKJV Mark 9:33-37

**Becoming Like Christ** *Servant Of All*

They came to Capernaum. When he was safe at home, he asked them, "What were you discussing on the road?" The silence was deafening—they had been arguing with one another over who among them was greatest. He sat down and summoned the Twelve. "So you want first place? Then take the last place. Be the servant of all." He put a child in the middle of the room. Then, cradling the little one in his arms, he said, "Whoever embraces one of these children as I do embraces me, and far more than me—God who sent me."

MSG Mark 9:33-37

**Becoming Like Christ** *Servant Of All*

And so they arrived at Capernaum. When they were settled in the house where they were to stay he asked them, "What were you discussing out on the road?" But they were ashamed to answer, for they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest! He sat down and called them around him and said, "Anyone wanting to be the greatest must be the least—the servant of all!" Then he placed a little child among them; and taking the child in his arms he said to them, "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming my Father who sent me!"

TLB Mark 9:33-37

**Becoming Like Christ** *Servant Of All*

Jesus and his followers went to Capernaum. When they went into a house there, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But the followers did not answer, because their argument on the road was about which one of them was the greatest. Jesus sat down and called the twelve apostles to him. He said, "Whoever wants to be the most important must be last of all and servant of all." Then Jesus took a small child and had him stand among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said, "Whoever accepts a child like this in my name accepts me. And whoever accepts me accepts the One who sent me."

NCV Mark 9:33-37

# Servant Of All

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Becoming Like Christ** – Mark 9:33-37

**In Context:** Read Mark 9

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Mark 9:33-37 (NIV)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

They came to Capernaum. | When he was in the house, | he asked them, | "What were you arguing about on the road?" | But they kept quiet | because on the way | they had argued about | who was | the greatest. | Sitting down, | Jesus called | the Twelve and said, | "If anyone | wants to be first, | he must be | the very last, | and the servant | of all." | He took a little child | and | had him stand among them. | Taking him | in his arms, | he said to them, | "Whoever welcomes | one of these | little children | in my name | welcomes me; | and whoever | welcomes me | does not welcome me | but the one | who sent me." Mark 9:33-37 (NIV)

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**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I do have desires. I do have ambitions. It is my desire and ambition to know and love and follow and serve you. I am willing to be last of all. I am willing to give myself fully in service to you and to others. Help me to do great things with and for you. Amen

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**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What are the differences between the world's and the Lord's definition of greatness?

When have you allowed your life to be guided by a worldly definition of greatness?

Why does the Lord not condemn ambition and the desire to be great?

**What are good and right and pure ambitions that are pleasing to the Lord?**

How thankful are you that the Lord created you with desires and ambitions to know, love and serve Him?

**How strong is your desire and ambition to love and serve the Lord and others?**

**How is your life now being guided by the Lord's definition of greatness?**

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**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Allow your desires and ambitions to guide you to love and serve others with all the ability the Lord gives you.

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**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord has given you desires and ambitions to know and to love and to follow and serve Him.

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**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has been using you to serve others.

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**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you become a servant of all.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I will become a servant of all.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how can I serve others today?*

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