

TITLE AND NUMBER: 203 Become a servant

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: Mark 9: 33-35



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, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.'

LOOKING FURTHER: Mark 10:42-45 ; 1 Peter 4:7-11 ; Philippians 2:5-11

What does the Bible passage tell us?

Have you ever had one of those awkward moments when someone walked in and saw or heard you doing or saying or looking at something you were embarrassed about? The disciples didn't know how to answer when Jesus caught them arguing about which of them was the greatest. After all, they knew that Jesus Himself was the greatest.

Verse 35 tells us that Jesus sat down to speak to them. In our culture, if we want to get everyone's attention for something important, we would normally stand up. However, Jewish teachers would normally sit down to teach. This shows that what Jesus had to say was important. He tells them that 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.' He repeated this teaching again in Mark 10:42-45; it was important that His followers got the message!

Jesus' message here isn't about how important we look but about our heart. Whatever jobs we do for Him, seen or unseen, we should be driven by love for God and for other people.

Someone said that, 'True greatness isn't measured by how well you did something, but by how many people were better off all because you were around' (*A Servant's Heart*, published by the C S Lewis Institute). 1 Peter 4:11 says, 'If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides.'

Are we ready to put aside the things we plan, or hope, or wish to do today to help someone else?

Reflection

- Think of someone who has made your life better just by being around. Thank God for them.
- It isn't always easy to put others first and to become 'the servant of all.'" Ask God to show you a particular way or situation where you can start to put today's reading into practice.
- Read Philippians 2:5-11; reflect on how Jesus Himself became a servant for our sake, and what this means for you today.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

