

SERMON NOTES

TELL ME ABOUT HIS DEFINITION OF GREATNESS

Mark 9:30-41



BIG IDEA: True greatness in the kingdom is found in embracing the way of the cross, taking the lowest place in humble service, and joyfully celebrating God's work wherever it appears.

APPLICATION GUIDE

DECEMBER 7, 2025

DISCUSS

When you were a child, what was one thing you thought would make someone “great”—and how has that definition changed now that you’re older?

Why do you think the disciples struggled to accept Jesus’ prediction of his suffering and death (vv. 30–32)?

Why were the disciples silent when Jesus asked what they were discussing on the way (vv. 33–34)?

What does John’s complaint in verse 38 show about the disciples’ hearts? And how does Jesus’ response in verses 39–41 challenge a narrow or competitive view of ministry?

APPLY

Where in your life are you currently facing a choice between what is right and what is easy? How might the “way of the cross” guide your response?

Who is the “child in your midst” — the overlooked, inconvenient, or insignificant person Jesus is calling you to receive and serve? What would it look like to take the lowest place in that relationship?

How do you typically respond when someone else succeeds — in your family, workplace, ministry, or church? How can you celebrate the victories God is achieving in others’ lives right now?

COMMIT

This week, choose one concrete way to take the lowest place—either by serving someone who cannot repay me, confessing a sin you’ve been hiding, or celebrating God’s work through someone else—as a way of walking the path of true greatness with Jesus.