



## Sermon Discussion Guide

### ***“A Love that Serves”***

*Mark 9:30-37, 10:32-45; Philippians 2:1-11; Galatians 5:13-14*

## Summary

This week we heard that *community is a blessing, but it's messy*. Pride makes a mess when we exalt ourselves over others (Mark 9-10). Yet community is possible because Christ graciously dethrones us and reorients us to humility and service (Philippians 2). Jesus shows us that true greatness is not found in status or self-glory but in serving others. Because He has served us, we are freed to serve one another for God's glory.

### **Truth #1: Community is messy because we pridefully exalt ourselves (Mark 9-10)**

- The disciples argued about who was the greatest (Mark 9:33-34).
- James and John demanded the best seats in glory (Mark 10:35-41).
- Pride shows up in selfish ambition, conceit, and looking out for our own interests.
- Pride creates competition, suspicion, and division in community.
- Pride exalts self instead of God and places us above those we are to serve
- Reflection: *If you were on the road with the disciples, what case would you make for being the greatest?*

### **Truth #2: Community is possible because Christ graciously dethrones and reorients us (Philippians 2:1-11)**

- Pride puts us on the throne of our lives, but that leads to death.
- Jesus graciously knocks us off through His life, death, resurrection, and ascension, and God exalting Him as Lord of all. So now He is King, not us.
- In Christ, we are reoriented from self-exaltation to humility, unity, and service.
  - **Head** – reoriented to think differently: true greatness is found in serving others (Mark 10:43-45).
  - **Heart** – reoriented from pride and conceit to humility, affection, sympathy, and compassion.
  - **Hands** – reoriented from living to be served to serving others in love (Galatians 5:13-14).

- **Practical applications for serving one another**
  - Make yourself available (create margin in your life).
  - Look for opportunities (don't wait, ask God where to serve).
  - Remember you are serving Christ (Hebrews 6:10; Matthew 25:40).
  - Don't downplay your gifts – God works through willing, faithful people

## Discussion Questions

1. **Read Mark 9:33-34.** Why do you think the disciples argued about who was the greatest right after Jesus revealed His glory and spoke of His death? What does that reveal about the pull of pride?
2. If you were walking on the road with the disciples, what “case” would you be tempted to make for being the greatest? What things in your life give you that sense of superiority?
3. **Read Mark 10:35-41.** Why do recognition and position still hold such power over us? How have you seen the desire for status or honor create division in community?
4. **Read Philippians 2:1-11.** How does Jesus' humility and self-emptying dethrone our pride and redefine what greatness looks like?
5. In Philippians 2:1-5, Paul calls us to unity and humility. What does it practically look like to “count others more significant than yourselves” in your GCG or church family?
6. Think about the **head, heart, and hands** reorientation:
  - a. How is the Spirit reshaping your thinking (head) about greatness and service?
  - b. How is He softening your heart toward others in humility and compassion?
  - c. Where is He calling you to act with your hands in practical service this week?
7. What is one specific step you can take this week to serve someone else in love, not for recognition but for the glory of Christ?