The Way of Jesus: Who is the Greatest?

Speaker: Rev. Missy Carfield

Date: Sunday, November 22, 2026

Scripture: Mark 9:30-41

SUMMARY

On the road through Galilee, Jesus tells the disciples again that He will be delivered, killed, and raised—and they argue about who is the greatest. So He sits down like a rabbi and gives the recipe: anyone who wants to be first must be last and the servant of all.

He takes a little child, someone of no status, and says whoever welcomes one of these welcomes Him. When John wants an outsider stopped, Jesus says whoever is not against us is for us. In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity—and when we lack discernment, we ask the Father.

KEY POINTS

- **Delivered by the Father**—the cross is the Trinity's plan for redemption, not just Judas.
- **Greatness upside down**—the way up is to be last and the servant of all.
- **Welcome the least**—receiving a child in His name is receiving Jesus and the Father.
- **Not against us is for us**—don't divide over non-essentials; ask God for discernment.

MEMORABLE LINES

> *"If we really want to become great, then we will serve."*
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> *"The kingdom of God turns everything upside down."*
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> *"You don't have to know all the answers. You know the One who does."*

TAKEAWAY

This week, stop asking who is greatest and ask whom you can serve—welcome the overlooked, hold the non-essentials loosely, and go to the Father for the discernment He gives generously.