

The Gospel of Mark – Kingdom Assimilation

Mark 9:33- 37 June 7, 2026

“Pride and ambition are temptations in every age.”

Too many cooks in the kitchen

It makes sense... they are on their way back to their ministry headquarters in Capernaum. Peter, James, and John just got to go and do something the others were not included in, and what is the hidden topic of conversation? Who is the greatest?

They came to Capernaum (Home Sweet Home)

Mark 1 – Jesus goes into *the Synagogue and teaches*

Peter’s *mother-in-law’s* house is there

(Mark 2) He comes back, and it’s so packed out *the roof is torn off* the house.

The *centurion’s servant*, I am not worthy to have you in my house, just say a word.

John 6:59 I am *the bread of life*

Matthew 9:1 His “own” city.

Matthew 11:23

Familiarity is not always in your favor.

Well, every good Road trip has to have at least one good argument

Dispute: To be at odds with each other and to reason and volley points of view back and forth trying to convince each other of your own point of view.

Among yourselves (They thought they were keeping it from the Lord)

(Sometimes we know we are doing something the Lord would not be pleased with or we are ashamed of, so we think we can do it off to the side. NOPE!)

THEY KEPT SILENT: (Three Teers)

Inability to speak, to be at a loss for words... unable to find something to say. Which for Peter is a pretty big deal. Even with Moses and Elijah around, not know what to say, said something.

Embarrassed and busted

HE sat down – body posture The first slow moment in the Gospel of Mark

Desire: to will, have in mind, to be determined, to wish, would take delight in. With the future in mind.

GREATEST: greatest, biggest, strongest, also first born or older than others. Responsibility, Recognition, Importance, Trust, Fame, Authority to rule/boss

The human desire for validation and recognition is strong.

This is something that is usually;

- Raging with intensity when we are younger
- Comfortable with in the middle of life,
- and then resurfaces near the end

Studies done on the topic of legacy, including one in 2025 by Pew Research, found that a significant majority of people over 65 have some level of concern toward their legacy and what they will leave behind. Yes, money and belongings, but also values, life lessons, and reputation.

We fight FOR it, then we WORRY about it.

Position (Last of all)

Posture (Servant of all)

He shall be LAST of all:

Last in place, last in a series, time, rank, lowest.

To willingly go to the back of the line, to be last to be called,

Q: When do I get my turn? After every single person has had a chance to go.

Q: When do I get my name called? After every single person on earth.

Parenting Side Note: Are you teaching your children to be comfortable going last?

Youth: If you can learn to work hard but fight and contend less, God will raise up.

Psalm 37:34 Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and He shall **exalt you** to inherit the land;...

God resists the proud, but give grace to the humble.

1 Peter 5:6 Therefore humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

He shall be SERVANT of all:

Very little or low social status

In the ancient world, honor and (social status) were extremely important.

Expectations: power, authority, recognition, and glory.

Name on the door, picture on the wall.

Servants would clean, cook, labor on the farm, and tend to the needs of the family and property. Their purpose was to better the life of others.

Assimilation into a country – assimilation into God's Kingdom

The greatest, the most important, valuable, honorable people are those who add value and increase the purpose of other people.

SERVANT VS. VOLUNTEER

(Both contribute, one as much as they want, the other as much as they can.)

- (Hero: I'm here to help OR **Servant**: How can I help?)
- **Chick-fil-a "My Pleasure"**

Prefer others above yourself

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

A FEW WORDS OF CAUTION

You have to be the best you first so you can help people.

NOPE! – I understand but that is still "me" focused.

Fixing self will cause you to focus on self. You were created and will be filled by serving others, not seeking self-improvement.

LEADING: Even leading is serving – I want to move, but I can't so don't try to make me. Could George Washington have served his country by being a cook in the army?

YES

Was serving food the best way for George Washington to help people?

NO

Rather than food, he served up clarity, unity, and courage. Not for himself but for others

What this is NOT

Self-deprecation

Talking bad about yourself

But an attitude of self-forgetfulness and seeking the well-being of others.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

OF ALL

We do not evaluate someone before deciding if we should encourage/build them up/help them out. They most likely will not add anything to your life, your in it for them.

Receives a child – Mark 9:37

Look at receives in vs. 37 and how often it's repeated.

Gentleness and humility and observation/notice

Noticing the lower and lowest class, overlooked, unimportant people as if they are the guest of honor.

RECEIVES: to take with the hand, to grant access to a visitor, to receive favorably, to embrace. To receive someone else's burdens or load.

Mi Casa es Su casa – Colombian grandmas

You cannot be good with God and not in sync with Jesus, and you cannot be in sync with Jesus and resist people.

General Observations

KEY: You don't become a great servant by striving, committing, and forcing yourself to SERVE and DO more. *You become a servant by surrendering your will and "MY PLEASURE."*

1 Timothy 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

It takes time to let it sink in...

There is teaching, then there is transformation... *Doers of the Word and not hearers only*

Just a few weeks later and they would be in the upper room.

And after some time together, who would be the one with a towel wrapped around their waist, kneeling on the floor, washing their feet? JESUS.

1 Thessalonians 4:8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

Ultimately a servant of the Lord

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away, but blessed be the name of the Lord.

So, are you, one too many cooks in the kitchen?

"Yes chef" – The Soucier, the sous chef, the dishwasher.

"My Pleasure"

Unless you become **converted**, your mind towards the kingdom is changed over. (Have you changed your mind about what is most important?)

Philippians 2:5&7 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,... but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Consider how far Jesus stooped down, as the servant of all, in order to save our soul. If He humbled Himself that much, can't we humble our selves as much as He is asking?