



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Christian, Strive to be Last September 14-16, 2024

Mark 9:30-37

³⁰ They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." ³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

1. Name one thing in your life that you have really strived to be good at. Have you ever been recognized/rewarded for it?
2. What does it mean to "strive to be last" in your everyday life? Can you think of specific situations where you could practice this?
3. Jesus' disciples were afraid to ask him about his coming death and resurrection. Why do you think they were hesitant? Are there teachings of Jesus you find difficult to understand or accept?
4. Jesus says, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." How does this teaching challenge the values of today's society?
5. Agree/Disagree: "Serving others is often more about small, unnoticed acts of kindness than grand gestures." Why do you agree or disagree with this statement?
6. In what ways did Jesus model this servant attitude in his life, particularly through his actions and teachings? How can we imitate him?
7. Jesus used the example of welcoming a child to explain servanthood. Why do you think he chose a child as an example?
8. What do you think it means to "welcome little children in Jesus' name?"
9. Agree/disagree: Greatness is a quality that every Christian should strive for. Why/why not?