

THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—September 24th, 2023

Mark 9:30-37

(ESV)

[30] They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, [31] for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” [32] But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

[33] And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” [34] But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. [35] And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” [36] And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, [37] “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

INTRODUCTION

For Jesus, to be great is to be humble.

Matthew 5:5—[5] *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

Romans 4:13—[13] For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

Humility is not achievable by works, but by faith.

THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST

Passion predictions by Jesus (Mark 8:31, 9:30-31, 10:33-34)

For Jesus, all discipleship is centered on the gospel.

Son of Man

- Jesus’ most often used title to refer to himself.
- Not about his humanity, but his divinity.

Daniel 7:13–14

[13] *“I saw in the night visions,*

*and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.*

*[14] And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.*

Acts 2:22–23—*[22] “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—[23] this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.*

THE PRIDE OF THE DISCIPLES

Pride is boasting on merits we have not achieved.

1 Corinthians 4:7—*What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?*

1 Corinthians 15:10—*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*

The antidote to pride is not the denial that we are able to do good, but the recognition that anything good is a product of the grace of God in our lives.

TRUE GREATNESS

Greatness for Jesus is revealed through service.

Greatness is achieved when we serve the weak in the name of Christ.

Matthew 25:37–40—*[37] Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? [38] And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? [39] And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ [40] And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’*

Mark 10:45—*[45] “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*