

Sermon Notes

Amazing Servanthood
Mark 9:30-37

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March 8, 2020

v. 30-31a

A shift from the crowds to calling

- Jesus' ultimate calling wasn't to gather and impress crowds. It was to be a suffering servant
- If Jesus' primary metric for ministry success wasn't quantity and impressiveness, why are they often ours?

v. 31b-32

2nd of 3 passion predictions

- 1) predication, 2) pride/misunderstanding and 3) teaching on discipleship

v. 33-34

Jesus' predication is met with pride and misunderstanding

- If Jesus were to ask us the same question (what were you arguing about?) we'd likely be no less embarrassed.
- Are we arguing because we want to make Jesus look compelling/beautiful or because we want to look good/right?

v. 35-37

School is now in session. Two key lessons about a cross-shaped life:

- 1) Humble servanthood: When self-advancement is our aim we lose contact with the gospel
- 2) Selfless inclusivity: How we welcome those without honor/status is an indicator of a truly Jesus-centered life.

Is our pride and selfishness blurring the beauty of Jesus?

Are we living a cross-shaped life?

Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

As always feel free to tweak, skip, or add questions to focus on areas you think most relevant to your group.

What are you most excited about with spring on the horizon?

If a non-Christians asked you what the most important elements of being a Jesus follower were, what would you say? How should this passage influence our answer?

Have you encountered examples of Christian individuals/institutions that have been more focused on self-advancement (popularity, prestige, power, wealth, etc.) than on Jesus? How about in your own life?

What is something you've argued about that in hindsight you would be embarrassed about when exposed in the presence of Jesus?

What's a story you've encountered recently where the church lived out servanthood and sacrifice in such a way that Jesus looked beautiful?

Read the 1st passion prediction and the reaction of the disciples (Mark 8:31-38). What are the similarities? Differences?

The life of a Jesus follower is to be marked by humble servanthood and selfless inclusivity. Evaluate your life in these areas. Where is it evident? Where has selflessness and pride entered in such a way that it keeps you from this cross-shaped life?

What would your neighbors and/or co-workers say about your inclusiveness and servanthood? How should your life look different in these contexts this week in light of this passage?

How should your life look different this week in light of this passage?