

Read Mark 9:33-37

33 After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, “What were you discussing out on the road?”

34 But they didn’t answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest.

35 He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, “Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.”

36 Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them,

37 “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me.”

What did Jesus ask the disciples (v. 33)? What were you arguing about when you were walking along the road? **How did they answer (v. 34)?** They didn’t answer. They were ashamed and too embarrassed. They were prideful. They were just thinking about themselves.

What had they been arguing about? Which one of them was going to be the most important when Jesus set up His kingdom.

Where did they think Jesus was going to set up his kingdom? On earth, probably when they got to Jerusalem, where Jesus would get rid of the Romans who were ruling over them.

Where was Jesus planning to set up His kingdom? In heaven where He will take all the believers.

Did Jesus know what they were arguing about? Yes. He knows the hearts of everyone.

How do you know that? The Bible tells us so. John 2:24-25 *But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for He knew all men. He did not need man’s testimony about man, for He knew what was in a man.*

What did Jesus tell them about being the greatest (v. 35)? You have to be willing to be last and to serve other people. You have to put others before yourself. You have to be humble. **Who could you serve and how?**

Who did Jesus use as an example to teach the disciples (v. 36)? A little child – children were not very important in Jesus’ day.

What was His message to the disciples (v. 37)? Jesus told them if they want to be important in God’s kingdom, they need to care about other people, like this little child, because even though the children may not be important to others, they are very important to God.

What might His message mean in our lives? Don’t try to be first all the time. Reach out to the kids that aren’t very popular. Philippians 2:3 *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*