



*The Gospel of Mark*  
**HOW TO BECOME THE GREATEST**

**Mark 9:30-41**

**Pastor Trevor Cooper**  
February 1, 2020

Here at First Baptist Church of Cypress, we teach the gospel to make disciples, mature disciples, and multiply disciples of Jesus Christ who reach neighborhoods and nations. Jesus and the disciples began to journey to Jerusalem that would result in His crucifixion several months later. On this road trip, Jesus told his disciples once before of his death even though His disciples still did not understand. There are moments when God is speaking to us even though we may not fully understand. But God is Good... He reveals his plans and purpose at some point if we are willing and able to understand.

**Mark 9:30-41**

*"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." 38 John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." 39 But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. 40 For the one who is not against us is for us. 41 For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward."*

### 1. Jesus' Teaching of HUMILITY was a MODEL for His Disciples to APPLY in Every-day Life. (v 30-34)

"Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach..."

**1 Timothy 3:2**

"if anyone is above reproach... For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach..." **Titus 1:6-7**

"And you... has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless above reproach before him..." **Colossians 1:22**

- ABOVE reproach does not mean WITHOUT sin.
- ABOVE reproach is a person of GOOD character and REPUTATION.

### 2. Those who HUMBLY Serve Others are Great in GOD'S Kingdom. (v 35-37)

- God will always be pleased with men and women who are HEALTHY, HOLY, and HUMBLE.

*"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."* **Hebrews 4:13**

- Have a heart of a child, with a mind of an adult.

### 3. Jesus Rewards Acts of COMPASSION and Rejects the Acts of COMPETITION. (v 38-41)

- Acting in Jesus' NAME demonstrates the good work of a TRUE believer of Jesus.

*"Moses, my lord, stop them!" Moses answered, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"* **Numbers 11:26-29**

- Jesus OPENS the doors for others to JOIN His team in the battle against evil.
- CHURCH should never be about COMPETITION.

What makes us great and successful in God's eyes is not what we accomplish in our education degrees, our bank accounts, playing sports, or how many followers we have on the Gram, Twitter, or SnapChat, but what makes us great is what Paul said in **Philippians 3:7-8**,

*“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. “For this sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”*

Do we trust Christ enough to say this?