

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Mark 9:30-37

September 24, 2017

Discover the humbly awesome role: Servant to All in Christ

- Young children: one minute eager to help/serve - next: self-centered
- Children: caring/humble - then: plotting to be important
- Adults: first to respond to disaster - turn around: out for self-advancement
 - ♦ Humane in special needs - less humane in daily relationships
- Best of humanity - Worst of humanity: different people, even same person
- Example of the 12 in this account
 - ♦ Eager to serve in a prominent position
 - ♦ Ashamed of their arrogance - tried to hide it from Jesus
 - ♦ They hadn't discovered: *There's no "I" in servant.*
 - ♦ The arrogant can't serve. Their "I"s get in the way of seeing service.
 - ♦ The 12 struggle with this. So do we. **All sin is self-serving!**

Jesus invites us to...

Discover the humbly awesome role: Servant to All in Christ

- ❖ Contrast Jesus - the Servant of the LORD
 - Service is Jesus' First name, Last name, and Middle name
 - Isaiah revealed the Messiah's role: *Suffering Servant of the LORD*
 - Mission: to serve God - taking on the form of a servant to do God's work
 - Mission: to serve All us rebel people who serve self vs. God
 - ♦ Jesus served in the place we could not serve and survive: cross & hell
 - ♦ When he tells the 12 - didn't get it - didn't want to. It didn't sound good
 - Mission: to free us from serving sin to serve God, our *designed for* role
 - ♦ Jesus had to free us and model Servant of God - to see it's awesome!
 - ♦ But modeling it isn't good enough. We need a change of heart.
 - Sin prevents us from seeing it is good
 - Sin hates serving God. Sinners are incapable of loving & serving God
- ❖ Jesus exposes that serving God requires more than just doing service.
 - Why do people serve? Why do people offer humble sacrificial service?
 - ♦ Conscience: They feel they have to. They couldn't live with themselves
 - ♦ Self-satisfaction. *It makes me feel good. I like to help. Even anonymous*
 - ♦ It's wise. It works. Simon O Sinek: *Leaders Eat Last: Why Some Teams Pull Together and Others Don't* - It is in the interest of us.
 - ♦ Social standing - makes me look good - be remembered/not forgotten
 - **What's the common threat? Me, Myself, and I** - What's missing? God

Such good and noble deeds make a difference in society. All are blessed by such service. Christians call this *Civic Righteousness*. God blesses us through this. It is obviously better than inaction or looting and stealing! But when done for *Self* the god they serve is *Self*. They don't know the joy of being God's servant.

- ❖ The key: discovering how Jesus' cross makes you his servant
 - The cross - All about humiliating its victim. It says: *You're a NOBODY.*
 - In humble service Jesus headed to the cross. He didn't just accept it!
 - Why? Yes to serve God and carry out his plan for atonement.
 - Why? To serve us, seeking our highest good - to redeem us:
 - ♦ To rescue us from slavery to self-seeking self destruction.
 - ♦ To release us to freely serve our Creator and Savior God of Life.
 - Hearts of cold stone melted by this Love see the Servant as awesome!
 - ♦ Faith trusts and relies on Jesus, puts ourselves **under** his care.
 - ♦ Living in the Kingdom of the Servant, our delight: to be his servants
 - Like Jesus, his servants are too busy serving to think about what's *fair*
 - ♦ Jesus didn't die for us because that was *fair*. Love made it necessary.
 - ♦ The cross infects our thinking. All we want is what Jesus wants.
- ❖ Avoiding the trap of letting sin misuse our service
 - If you are willing to serve, people are willing to let you and misuse you.
 - Solution: be clear in the mission of your service to All.
 - ♦ Jesus didn't let the crowd suck him into serving them and lose his focus
 - ♦ Jesus left to equip the 12, preparing them to see his cross and serve.
 - Parents don't serve kids to give what they want, but what they need.
 - Christians live to serve to free people from sin through knowing Jesus.
 - ♦ Christians humbly serve, doing dirty work, but not *rugging it*
 - ♦ *Rugging it* = letting people constantly walk All over you, wipe feet
 - ♦ If my service enables, thus promoting sin, that's not Christ-like service!
 - ♦ Don't respond with anger and hate (expected).
 - *Does this give you joy? I will not Allow it, because it doesn't help you.*
 - **Discover the humbly awesome role: Servant to All in Christ**
 - ♦ Jesus' love that made you a servant - humbles you to be called a servant
 - ♦ Jesus' love motivates to reveal Jesus' heart-changing/life-changing love
 - ♦ A Servant of All in Christ serves for the good of others - as God defines
 - ♦ A Servant of All in Christ focuses on: the Servant Savior - the mission - the enslaved & hurting - the role

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