

## Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Mark 9:30-37

September 17 & 18, 2016

**Meet the Savior who serves to save us to be his *servants of all*.**

Children *wanted to be first* - struggling for the front of the line subtly so not sent to the back

*Grown ups* fight at Black Friday store opening

*Line jumping* at Amusement Parks threatened to be expelled

How do you know church is Lutheran? People come early to get their humble seat in the back. Humility or first out of church? *The last shall be first!* ;-)

- Imagine if no one would go first in the potluck line, because everyone was insisting someone else should go before them.
- Of course if you are fighting over last, you still are not *the servant of all*.

***If you want to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.***

What does this mean? It's all here.

**Meet the Savior who serves to save us to be his *servants of all*.**

At first the two parts of text seem unrelated. Think again!

### ❖ Meet the Savior who serves

- Jesus isn't off seeking glory, but serving his disciples and all people
  - ♦ After they confessed, *You are the Christ* he teaches them what that means: Christ = Suffering Servant
  - ♦ Humbling serving them, preparing them for Holy Week and beyond
  - ♦ Jesus' humility: serving God, serving us, taking lowest position to save
    - Serve God's will: paying for our sins - to save & serve us
      - His death and betrayal - his mission, not a mistake
      - Purpose: *Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*
    - He taught and prepared his disciples
      - Their silence may seem like humble servants
      - In fact - they didn't want to hear it - they didn't humble themselves to seek his instruction
      - The news of Jesus' death attacked their longing for glory/power

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Have you ever met anyone with a servant heart like Jesus?

### ❖ He saved us to be his servants of all

- The disciples were contending for position and power
  - ♦ Why do people fight for a prominent position?
    - Want the position for the power - never pushed around
    - Self-worth, importance, want to be something.
    - Want to leave your mark - do something, be remembered, legacy
      - Eager to work and serve - but for my glory, even if humble
  - ♦ The sin = our glory, not God's. Our hostile haughty hearts
- Jesus came to rescue us servants of sin - restore to be servants of God
  - ♦ His Servant Sacrifice on the cross ***bought us back*** to be his servants
  - ♦ His stunning Servant care melts our hostile haughty hearts
    - It crushes our sense God is only out to rule us and get us.
    - Convicts us: God loves me. God is good. Serving him is superior!
    - Delighting to be called to be God's servants - not self-serving!
- How to be **his servant of all**
  - ♦ *Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name...*
  - ♦ Jesus' servants serve ***in his name***: his will, his mission, his way
  - ♦ Humble ourselves to **see the needy** through Jesus' eyes.
    - See need for care. Not judge importance as the world does. To care.
    - Serve per God's purpose: rescue a servant of sin to become a servant of God
  - ♦ This avoids *rugging* it. Being a **sucker** vs. Being **his servant**
    - Servants are willing to suffer misuse while caring
    - Servants of Jesus have mercy and serve in Jesus' name
    - Yet we **don't** by **enabling** sin. In care, spell out, put a stop to it
      - Not because I will not take your grief!
      - But because I'm not helping you & serving Jesus if I enable sin.
  - ♦ When service is offered to serve in Jesus' name - pure privilege
    - We find our purpose, fulfillment, and satisfaction - life as his servant
      - A Servant that delights to serve not counting what's fair, only counting what's love to the overlooked and needy
    - Humbled to be able to serve in Jesus' name. Shear delight!

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