

# First Shall Be Last

## **Matthew 18:1-5 & Mark 9:30-41**

Welcome back and here we go! Today we look at a curious block of scriptures. I say curious because it takes three seemingly different ideas and puts them together. We have an argument, a child and a stranger. What is the lesson for us? Well actually there are several!

### **Matthew 18:1-5 & Mark 9:30-41**

- 1) What stands out to you here?

### **Mark 9:30-32**

***'Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day." But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.'***

Again we have a lot going on but let's start with this. This is now the fifth time Jesus talks about His death and resurrection. But what is going on with the disciples? Well, they do not understand and are afraid to ask. So immediately we see a flaw in their thinking. In fact, in our study a couple weeks back we saw Jesus rebuke satan who was working through Peter.

So now instead of asking they argue. I can just see Jesus --- knowing they are afraid to ask, and instead of discussing that on the road, arguing ---- just shaking His head!

### **Mark 9:33-35**

***'Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest. And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."'***

- 2) Where do you put yourself last? What does that look like?

I think we all might have some pretty lofty ideas of where we put ourselves last. But I think human nature makes us want to care for ourselves.

### **Philippians 2:1-9**

Yet over and over the bible teaches us to put others first. In any relationship, if we are seeking what we can do to help the other, we benefit. How many relationships stop working because my needs aren't met?

That statement alone says..... "I must be first!"

In terms of forgiveness, a need to forgive means there has been an offense, where I was not put first.

3) How do people put themselves first?

**Mark 9:36-37**

***'But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him. Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."***

The use of a child is such an amazing illustration of our need to receive people in simplicity. In terms of being bankrupt, I often say people are emotionally, mentally, spiritually bankrupt. They cannot be what I need them to be in order for me to feel like I am first to them.... when they need to be first... which insults my need...

A child does not understand the concept of the cross, or serving. A child needs to be served, to be fed, changed, washed, supervised, taught, cared for.... Put that in spiritual terms.

Some children are difficult.

As a servant of God, putting spiritually uneducated or unable people first.....

4) (Personal question) Where do you need to be served?

The first shall be last... You know the last part of this block could be an enigma. But think about it.

5) How does it feel when an offending Christian preaches Jesus?

How many confused brothers and sisters are out there who really got it wrong? How do we know? Look at how they treat me. I can't put them first, are you kidding me?

Jesus died on the cross for me ---- for you ----- when will you die for someone who doesn't deserve it?

6) How can you be a better servant today? (optional)

Let's pray.