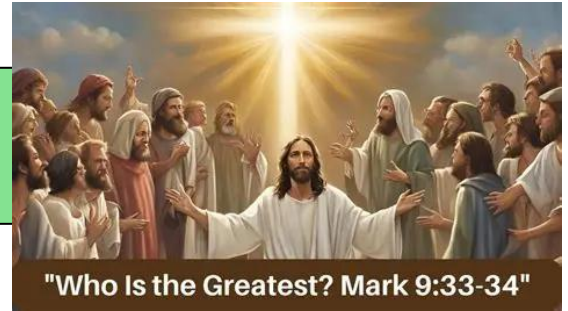


Success



"Who Is the Greatest? Mark 9:33-34"

Word of the Week Mark 9: 33-38

They came to Capernaum, and when he got into the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?'

They said nothing, because on the road they had been arguing which of them was the greatest.

So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.'

He then took a little child whom he set among them and embraced, and he said to them,

'Anyone who welcomes a little child such as this in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me, welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

John said to him, 'Master, we saw someone who is not one of us driving out devils in your name, and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.'

But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him; no one who works a miracle in my name could soon afterwards speak evil of me.'

Reflection

It seems to be a basic human need to achieve success in life. We strive to be successful in our jobs, in our friendships and in our lives. Success though is judged in many ways. We look at those who have achieved greatness or fame or who have amassed wealth and power, and we think that they might be the most successful people.

In the hustle and bustle of the world today, we often measure success by our material things or by how we get on in our class. We think we are successful because our parents have bought us the newest phone or because we have come top in the class again. Yes, these are successes, but are they meaningful?

This week's Word of the Week encourages us to think a bit differently about success and how we view it. Jesus tells his disciples quite bluntly what it means to be successful in the Kingdom of God – and that is putting yourself last. What a suggestion for Jesus to make!

He tells us in no uncertain terms that success isn't about being above others or thinking that you are better than anyone else. It's about lifting others up. It's about kindness, humility, and service. Jesus shows this through the child - someone with no status, no power, no influence. He places the child in the centre – symbolism of what he was trying to teach. He tells the disciples that welcoming someone small, unnoticed, or vulnerable is the same as welcoming Him. For Jesus, success isn't measured by achievement, popularity, or perfection. It's measured by love.

Prayers for the Week

Lord Jesus,

You teach us that real greatness is found in serving others. Help us to see success not as being better than someone else, but as becoming the kind of person who brings kindness, peace, and hope. Make our school a place where every person is valued, and where we measure our day by love, not achievement.

Amen.

Lord Jesus,

Your disciples argued about who was the greatest, but You showed them a different way. Give us humble hearts that choose patience over pride, service over selfishness, and compassion over competition. Teach us to put others first and to find joy in lifting people up.

Amen.

Lord Jesus,

Bless our school this week. Help us to celebrate each other's achievements without jealousy or comparison. Give us the courage to serve, the strength to be kind, and the wisdom to know that success is becoming more like Christ. Guide our words, our choices, and our friendships.

Amen.

Lord Jesus,

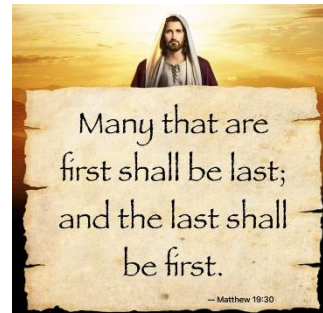
Teach us that the greatest success is becoming people of kindness, courage, and faith. Help us to grow not just in knowledge, but in compassion. Not just in confidence, but in humility. Not just in achievement, but in love. May our actions this week reflect the example of Christ, who showed us that true greatness is found in serving others.

Amen.



[Who is the greatest? \(Mark 9:30-41\)](#)

[The Last Shall Be First | New Christian Song | Christian Worship Song \(Original\) | Gospel Music](#)



Actions for the week ahead

- Hold the door open for someone.
- Offer help before being asked.
- Give one sincere complement each day.
- Let someone go ahead of you in a queue.
- Give someone else the “best seat” or place.
- Share your time with someone who needs support
- Sit with someone who is alone.
- Speak to someone who is new or quiet.
- Include someone who's usually left out.

