

5 Little-Known Facts About Greatness

When we think about the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – Mark isn't usually the first place we go. Yet Mark, listening to the eyewitness accounts of Peter, wrote a fast-paced gospel sharing the miraculous things Jesus did, including His death and Resurrection, to convince his Roman readers that Jesus is the Son of God. Let's not overlook what we can learn about our Savior in the overlooked gospel.



INTRODUCTION

In our continued study of the often-overlooked Gospel of Mark, we turn to chapter nine in which the author discusses the topic of greatness. It is important for us to understand not only the meaning of greatness, but what we as Christ-followers can do to become great for God's kingdom.

STARTER QUESTION

As followers of Jesus, we should strive to arrive where Jesus arrived. Is it possible to find a balance between using our gifts for God's glory while putting others before ourselves? How do we respond to a culture that emphasizes greatness and the importance of being first?

INTO THE WORD

Read Mark 9:24. Pastor David indicated the number one step in greatness is to never try anything without involving God first, and prayer is the best way to discover His will for our lives. Did you ever struggle to ask God for help? Why was this a challenge and how did you overcome it? Can you recall a time that you asked Him for direction? Discuss the outcome and how you felt.

Read Mark 9:49-50. Recent events in our society have brought to light the topic of injustice. We are to lead the way with righteousness and justice. What are specific ways we can do this with our friends, families, neighbors, and our community at large? Read Psalm 89:14. What reminder does this verse give us?

Review Mark 9:38-41. Jesus is cautioning his disciples to not exclude other believers from their circle of influence. How can we include people in our circle of influence whose political, social, and cultural experiences may differ from our own? What does your circle look like currently? What do we learn from James 4:11-12?

APPLICATION

In a time when seemingly everyone is clamoring, struggling, or wishing to be heard, what is the message we need to send to those around us? What specific gifts do we have to give others within our own community, especially when the community cannot reciprocate? Pay special attention to unique gifts God has placed within you.

Today we discussed the need to change our behavior so as not to make our children, loved ones, and others around us stumble. Have you determined any weaknesses in your behavior? If so, how do you plan to respond differently moving forward?

We learned the importance of doing something that puts us beneath another person. In what ways or areas are you struggling with unchecked desire to dominate or be esteemed above others? How often does this drive your motivations? Is there a boundary line we should place around ourselves in how far beneath another person we place ourselves?

PRAYER

Thank you, God, for the gifts you have placed within our hearts and souls. You have created each of us uniquely and for a designated purpose for this time and place in history. Show us how to involve You within our circle of influence, as we exemplify Your righteousness and justice through our words, actions, and behavior.