

MARK 9:30-37

David Edwards ■ Grace Bible Church ■ July 26, 2026

1. _____ before Glory

2. _____ before Exaltation

Mark 9:30-37

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

³² But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

³³ And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?"

³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵ And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

These questions are for further study and application of today's text of Scripture. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. One great way to grow as a disciple is by discussing these types of questions in a small group. Find a small group here: gracebiblecw.com/lifegroup or ask someone next to you if you can join their group!

1. Jesus identifies Himself as both the "Son of Man" (Daniel 7) and the Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53). Why was this combination so difficult for the disciples to understand, and how does seeing both passages together deepen your understanding of Christ's mission?
2. After hearing Jesus predict His death and resurrection, the disciples argued about who was the greatest. What are some modern ways Christians can become preoccupied with recognition, influence, or status instead of Christ's call to self-denial and service?
3. What are some examples of Old Testament figures who suffered before they were promoted/exalted? Can you think of any key Old Testament figures that didn't suffer first?
4. Jesus teaches that "if anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." How does the example of welcoming a child challenge our assumptions about what faithfulness and greatness look like in the church? Where do you see opportunities to serve those who are often overlooked?
5. The sermon emphasized the pattern of "cross before crown" in both Christ's life and the Christian life. In what specific area is God calling you to embrace humble service or sacrifice today, trusting that true glory comes through following Christ rather than pursuing your own advancement?