

1 September 2013: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: **The Mark of True Greatness**

Scripture Text: Mark 9:33-37 (A parallel account: Matthew 18:1-6)

1. How do we measure greatness? By money or the things we have or intelligence? Such examples are glorification of self. This is the definition of the world. This leads to a very competitive spirit. Sadly, this is also found in churches when people are serving with the same kind of gifts. We tend to compare with our friends who is doing better and if we aren't, we would bring others down.

2. The disciples of Jesus were disputing among themselves who is the greatest. Peter seemed to be very outstanding and the self-appointed spokesman of the group. Peter was also one of the three that saw the transfiguration of Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ asked them, they held their peace. For they knew that Jesus Christ should be the one that gets all the glory.

3. The mark of true greatness is taught by the Lord Jesus Christ. We need a Christ-exhorting spirit. Actively acknowledge that Jesus Christ should get the honour and He should be exalted. Right after Jesus told them the truth that He was going to the cross, the disciples started to quarrel. Just like us, we can easily forgot what Jesus Christ did for us and no longer focus on Him.

4. Jesus said that if any man desires to be first, he shall be the last of all, servant of all. Do we come to church to serve, or to be served? To be a servant of all includes to be a servant of those in church, in our family and just an ordinary person on the streets.

5. Jesus then talked about little children. We must know who we are - we are nobody like a little child. They are very innocent and dependent on their parents. Unless we have the kind of child-like disposition to trust God fully, we cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven. God's concept of greatness is the humility of man.