

11 November 2018: Preached by Rev Quek Suan Yew

**Topic: Life of Christ: Who Should be the Greatest?**

Scripture text: Mark 9:30-37

1. In this passage, the Lord Jesus Christ teaches His disciples about true greatness. Contrary to worldly philosophies, it is about serving one another instead of dominance. We must guard our hearts against serving God to outshine one another. Instead, we should serve God constrained by the love of Christ.

2. Jesus foretells His death when He told His disciples that He will be delivered into the hands of man to be killed. He will rise again from the dead on the third day. The disciples understood that Jesus will not resist the attack against Him. However, they did not understand what will happen to them and their ministries after the Lord's departure. Jesus' protection and plans for them were not revealed yet. (verses 31 to 32).

3. The disciples had a carnal mind because they were more concerned about the succession of leadership instead of the Lord's impending death. They wanted to be the greatest. When we serve the Lord, only Christ must be exalted. This will bring about peace and unity in the church. We must pray for God's grace to overcome the pride of life in us and use our spiritual gifts for the glory of God and edification of saints (verses 33 to 34).

4. Jesus taught that true greatness is to be the last of all. It means to be humble, to esteem others better than themselves and be a slave to all (verse 35). Jesus then gave an illustration to receive children in His name. We are to learn to serve without ulterior motives nor for earthly rewards. Our greatest example of humility and servanthood is the Lord Jesus Christ (verses 36 to 37).