

## “What were you discussing on the way?”

**A. Intro:** *With whom are you arguing? Who are you serving?*

**B. Sermon Themes:**

*Pride separates, humility unites.*

*Getting lost in our own greatness will leave us lost for eternity.*

**C. Context of Today's Question**

As Jesus and his disciples move away from Mt. Hermon, the scene of His Transfiguration and healing of the demon-possessed deaf-mute boy, they walk 25 miles southward toward Galilee. For the second time in Mark, Jesus explicitly reveals his coming death and resurrection to the now quiet but still uncomprehending disciples. Instead of embracing this truth, they later fall into another argument while jockeying to be recognized as the greatest among their peers.

When Jesus illuminates their intentions with His simple question (Mk 9:33), it is meant for anyone who lets selfish words and desires overrule our King's calling to humble faith and Kingdom service.

**D. Mark 9:30-37 (ESV)** <sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, <sup>31</sup> 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.” <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup> And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, **“What were you discussing on the way?”** <sup>34</sup> But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> 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.” <sup>36</sup> And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

**Matthew 18:3-4 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup> “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

**E. A humble servant...**

1. receives Christ's gift of eternal life.
2. resists gazing into the mirror of selfish importance.
3. responds to the call to serve all, starting with the least among us.

**F. Small Group or Individual Study Questions**

1. When have you missed an obvious clue someone was offering to you?
2. What tends to cloud the greatness of Christ out of your daily walk?
3. What kinds of service do you naturally gravitate toward? Why?
4. What kinds of service do you resist? Why?
5. Now answer #3 and #4 again, but change the question to focus on who you naturally serve or resist serving and why.
6. Pray about and look for an opportunity to serve someone this week who is in real need, bridging into their world in practical and sensitive ways.

