

*Greatness through Servanthood*  
**Mark 9:33-42**

*"When I look back at my own religious experience, or on the church of Christ in the world, I stand amazed at the thought of how seldom humility is sought after as the distinguishing feature of the discipleship of Jesus. In preaching and living, in the daily activities of the home and social life, in the more special fellowship with Christians, in the direction and performance of work for Christ—there is much proof that humility is not considered the cardinal virtue. It is not considered the only root from which the graces can grow, and the one indispensable condition of true fellowship with Jesus. The accusation that those who claim to be seeking the higher holiness have not always done so with increased humility is a call to all earnest Christians to prove that meekness and lowliness of heart are the chief marks by which they follow the meek and humble Lamb of God." Andrew Murray*

- I. Our greatest calling is to humbly serve Jesus. It is the only way to bear the kind of fruit that truly glorifies him. The idea of serving means having a willingness to give of ourselves for the benefit of another's spiritual, emotional, and physical wellbeing without expecting anything in return. Unfortunately, pride seems to always nip at our heels hoping to get a bigger bite into our hearts. It is our enemy, and we must do everything possible to put it to death. To fail to recognize and deal with it through repentance and a true heartfelt change toward how we view one another before our Savior, shows very little understanding of what it means to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12-13)

Mark 9:33-37

Prov. 16:18

Prov. 8:13

Matt. 11:28-29

Luke 22:24-27

Gal. 2:20

Rom. 12:1-2

Phil. 2:3-11

*Pride is one of the foremost ways of describing sin. It is wrong. It is against God and other people. And it is bizarre and incongruous because human beings are, by nature, dependent and have accomplished nothing in themselves that justifies enthronement. We live only by the "immeasurable riches of his grace" (Ephes 2:7). Ed Welch*

**James 4:6b** *God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

- II. Our place among all believers in the kingdom of God neither rises above nor below anyone else. We are all on equal standing because of Christ's imputed righteousness. Therefore, we must see and treat **one another** with honor and respect. Jesus takes notice of every act of kindness we show toward **one another** either in word or deed, no matter how small or great. He holds his body, his precious church, in high esteem, and so should we. There are fifty-nine "**One Others**" in the New Testament for a reason, and it's to teach us to value **one another** as precious children of God. Love **one another** is repeated the most often (Jn. 13:34, 13:35, 15:12, 15:17; Romans 13:8; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 4:2; 1 Thess. 4:18; 1 Peter 4:8; 1 Jn. 3:11, 3:23, 4:7, 4:11, 4:12; 2 Jn. 5)

Mark 9:38-41

*Phil. 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,*

*1 Peter 5b Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

- III. God has given us tremendous power to build up the body of Christ in love (Eph. 4:16). Satan does everything in his power to tear it down. He hates the body of Christ and looks for those who are full of pride to do his work. Unfortunately, there are willing dupes who, for the sake of whatever idol they might embrace, do a lot of damage to the spiritual wellbeing of those who are weak in the faith. Jesus takes notice and will justly deal with that person when he or she stands before him on judgment day.

Mark 9:42

1 Jn. 3:1-2

Matt. 25:31-46

**Skandalizō** - to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, upon which another may trip and fall, metaph. to offend, to entice to sin, to cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey, to cause to fall away, to be offended in one, i.e. to see in another what I disapprove of and what hinders me from acknowledging his authority, to cause one to judge unfavourably or unjustly of another. Strong's