

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:30-37

Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real. —Thomas Merton

Let's talk about goats. Well, not goats, per se, but GOATS. Think about some of the athletes you think are the Greatest Of All Time, dead or alive, in their respective endeavors. Most such designations are arguable, with the possible exception of the football GOAT: Tom Brady. Do you agree or disagree with the following GOATS?

Basketball: Michael Jordan

Tennis (male): Roger Federer

Tennis (female): Serena Williams

Golf (male): Tiger Woods

Golf (female): Annika Sorenstam

Hockey: Wayne Gretsky

Baseball: Babe Ruth

Boxing: Muhammad Ali

Soccer: Lionel Messi

Swimming (male): Michael Phelps

Swimming (female): Katie Ledecky

Jesus had some ideas about what made a person truly great. What he said to his disciples was so counterintuitive, so shocking, so unwelcome, that they had a hard time believing it.

What did the disciples believe about greatness? They thought, as did all their friends and family, that greatness was associated with power and authority. They believed that people who were great had but to utter a word and underlings would immediately obey. They knew that great personages had a large retinue of servants who waited on them for their every need.

The disciples had definite opinions about this, so much so, that they fell into an argument about it. Jesus noticed. "What were you arguing about on the way?" he asked.

They stood before him in utter silence "for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest."

Of course, Jesus knew. Then he dropped this life-altering bombshell: "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all" (v. 35).

Jesus' words are a game changer. The GOATS among us are the servants among us. Of all the life skills we need to learn, how to be a servant is the most important.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Make me a blessing, O Lord, as I live to serve others. In your name. Amen.

*Blessings,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Metz*


Daily Bible Readings
Sunday: Acts 18:12–19:10

Monday: Ezekiel 4-7

Tuesday: Ezekiel 8-11

Wednesday: Ezekiel 12-14

Thursday: Ezekiel 15-18

Friday: Ezekiel 19-21

Saturday: Psalms 106-108

WORD JUMBLE

Directions: Cross out the answer to each definition. Write the remaining words on the lines below to discover this well-known saying of Jesus. One clue is not used.

1. Expression of remorse	A	P	O	L	O	G	Y	T	H	E
2. Terror	L	I	F	E	H	O	R	R	O	R
3. Warrior	A	N	D	S	O	L	D	I	E	R
4. Article of clothing	G	A	R	M	E	N	T	T	H	E
5. Equine	N	O	O	N	E	H	O	R	S	E
6. Holds water	W	A	Y	C	I	S	T	E	R	N
7. Australian animal	K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	M	E
8. To decide	I	D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	E
9. Document of an arrest	W	A	R	R	A	N	T	W	A	Y
10. Music genre	E	X	C	E	P	T	J	A	Z	Z
11. Computer screen	M	O	N	I	T	O	R	A	N	D
12. Sarcasm	C	O	M	E	S	I	R	O	N	Y
13. Disciple	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	T	H	E
14. Domestic pet	T	H	R	O	U	G	H	C	A	T
15. Not true	F	A	L	S	E	T	R	U	T	H
16. Abode	T	O	T	H	E	H	O	U	S	E
17. Used to tie things	F	A	T	H	E	R	R	O	P	E
18. Used to open a door	D	O	O	R	K	N	O	B	A	M

8. ____ 18. ____ 1. ____ 9. ____ 3. ____ 4. ____ 15. _____

11. _____ 13. _____ 2. _____ 5. ____ 12. _____ 16. ____

17. _____ 10. _____ 14. _____ 7. ____ .

