

Three Great Challenges

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MARK 9:30-37

Intro. **A.** Most human beings respond positively to challenges.

1. The billion dollar sports world rests on this assumption.
2. It our nature to desire to be the best, to be the victor, to be a winner.
3. This has become a modern day mantra in regard to being a christian.
4. All of these are carnal, of the flesh of the old man.

B. What are the challenges of true christainity?

1. These verses will reveal three of them.
2. The challenge of being a loser.
3. The challenge of being a waiter of tables.
4. The challenge of being a friend of the helpless and unimportant.

I. The Fear of Being Associated With Failure.

A. What Jesus taught His disciples.

- Vs. 30, 31
1. "The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men."
 2. "... and they shall kill him;"
 3. "... and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day".
 4. Who wants 3 years of sacrifice to end this way?
 5. They believed that He would be king.
 6. What had they been told? "Repent, for the
 7. Angels and Mary. luke 1:30-33
 8. They had seen Him transfigured.

K of God... "

C. How to be a number one christian.

2.

Vs. 35c 1. "last" = ἔσχατος = the last, the extreme, the most remote, with ref. to time, that which concludes anything, the benediction.

2. "servant" = διάκονος = deacon = an attendant, a waiter at a table, a person who runs to serve, of a woman, one who had charge of the sick and poor.

Rom. 16:1

III. The Challenge To Be A Friend And Protector Of The Powerless And Helpless.

A. Jesus challenged a cultural practice.

Vs. 36.

1. Jesus sat a child in their midst.

2. "child" = παιδίον = a little or young child.

3. He, Jesus, embraced the child.

B. The symbolism of the child.

1. The child had no power.

2. The child had no position.

3. The child was a liability.

4. The child was helpless.

C. The child must be received.

Vs. 37a 1. "Receiver" = δέχομαι = to take to one's self what is brought or presented by another, to accept, embrace, to admit, approve, allow, This is a subjective reception showing that a decision of the will has taken place with respect to the object presented.

2. To receive the child is to receive Jesus. Jesus holds him in His embrace, you cannot receive one without the other.