

TALKING POINTS

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9. LEARNING TO SERVE

MARK 9:33-37

10:32-45

1. Why do we like being served or waited on? What is particularly pleasant or satisfying? What does that teach us about ourselves?
2. Why, do you think, did the disciples argue about who was the greatest (9:34) and why did James and John want to be important (10:37)? There seems to be nothing wrong inherently in being the leader or the boss. So what was the trap, weakness or temptation that they were liable to fall into? What do Christian leaders have to guard against in their own attitudes and actions? Think also about 10:42.
3. What is the primary quality of leadership or greatness that Jesus is emphasising (10:43,44)? Why is it important? In practice, how can this be worked out by a) church leaders (elders, deacons, pastors, etc.); b) Christians in positions of responsibility at work?

Give practical examples.
4. Read together Is.53:4-6,12 and Philippians 2:6-11.

What mental pictures of Jesus do these verses create for you?

Why did Paul write the Philippian passage? See 2:5.
So, what qualities for serving can we discover here?
5. Jesus' service meant that He served - gave His life - for those who hated Him, for everyone without distinction (Mark 10:45; Rom.5:6,8,10). Think of some of the people you know - maybe hostile, indifferent, opposed. How can you make Christ's love real to them?