

The Child in Our Midst

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Mark 9:30-50.

B. Christians generally do not like the principle of the cross in their lives.

II. Jesus knew that He would be turned over by an act of betrayal.

A. The disciples were held back by the fear of knowing more.

B. Jesus confronts them with the fact of the cross even though they do not want to hear it.

C. The disciples did not want to hear because of the feeling in their heart.

III. The truth about ambition.

A. The one wanting to be first must be last.

1. Jesus never rebuked the disciples for wanting to be greatest.

2. There are two kinds of ambition: to be great before men or to be great before God.

3. The measure of true greatness is not being known but is about how many people are served.

B. The real marks of greatness.

1. Receiving unimportant people for the sake of the Lord.

a. Not rejecting people to act in Jesus' name who are still learning.

b. We are to receive people for what they can be, not their current placement.

2. Taking humanity seriously and longing to see it develop rightly.

a. Spiritual help is of great value, but spiritual injury carries serious consequences.

b. Neglect can cause serious injury.

3. Examining oneself first.

a. We must deal drastically with wrong attitudes and actions.

b. If we do not, these attitudes and actions involve us in hell.

Application questions:

1. Who is an example of someone in your life who takes seriously the exhortation to be last in order to be great?

2. How does the church often fail to long to see others develop?

3. What are some issues in your life for which you have failed to act drastically? What can you do today to make headway in this area?
