Date: November 15, 2026
Series: The Gospel According to Mark
Title: "Greatness in God's Eyes"
Text: Mark 9:30-41

HARBOUR SHORES CHURCH

Introduction: This is what following Jesus looks like: He teaches us, we miss it, and he patiently corrects us... then he keeps walking and takes us right along with him.

I. Disciples Must Listen When Jesus Reveals the Way of the Cross (vv. 30-31)

- He revealed it by his **teaching** (v. 31; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 8:32; Acts 2:23)
- He revealed it by his **walking** (Mark 10:32; Philippians 2:5-8)

II. Disciples Will Misunderstand, and Pride Keeps Us Quiet About It (vv. 32-34)

- Growth as a disciple starts when we stop trying to hide our hearts from Jesus and others. (1 John 1:7-8)

III. Disciples Are Reshaped When Jesus Corrects Us (vv. 35-41)

Four marks of greatness in God's eyes:

1. Christ's disciples take last place and serve (v. 35)
2. Christ's disciples receive those who can give us nothing (vv. 36-37)
3. Christ's disciples rejoice in work that isn't ours (vv. 38-40)
4. Christ's disciples offer even small kindnesses in faith (v. 41)

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

For Reflection and Discussion

1. Why do you think the disciples were afraid to ask Jesus what he meant? What questions about following him do you tend to avoid? (v. 32)

2. What do you talk about "on the way"? What would you hate for Jesus to overhear? (vv. 33-34)

3. Jesus didn't tell them to stop wanting greatness. He redefined it. How is his definition different from the one our culture teaches? How should Christ’s definition practically change your life and thinking? (v. 35)

4. Who in your life can give you nothing in return? What would receiving them in Jesus' name look like this week? (vv. 36-37)

5. When God blesses someone else's ministry or success, what is your honest first reaction? Why? (vv. 38-40)

6. What "cup of water" could you offer this week, simply because someone belongs to Christ? (v. 41)