

**Series: The Upside-down Kingdom**  
**Sermon: Climbing the Kingdom Ladder**

*Mark 9:33-37*

*33 After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, “What were you discussing out on the road?” 34 But they didn’t answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. 35 He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, “Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.”*

*36 Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, 37 “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf[a] welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me.”*

**To become Great in God’s Kingdom you must Serve Others**

**In God’s Kingdom the forgotten and abandoned hold SPECIAL HONOR**  
**The King is our MODEL**

*Luke 22:25-27 25 Jesus told them, “In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called ‘friends of the people.’ 26 But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. 27 Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves.*

Man’s greatness: top, powerful, master, first, ruler, adult

God’s greatness: bottom, servant, slave, last, child

**Discussion Questions**

1. When you were young what did you want to be great at? What do you want to be great at today?
2. As a disciple, how would you feel when Jesus asked about the argument?
3. Why does Jesus use the child as an object lesson on true greatness in the kingdom?
4. How does Jesus' idea of success differ from success portrayed by television or pursued by most people?
5. What is something you can do to serve others today?