



19-25 September 2021 • Faith 24/7

## Jostling for position

 **Mark 9.30-37**

Where we find Jesus spending time with his disciples, trying to teach them about who he is and what will happen to him. But his disciples are more interested in which of them is the most important. Jesus teaches them that being great in God's eyes means making yourself less and thinking about other people more.

Now read **Mark 9.30-37** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

Jesus knows the score: he knows what his disciples have been arguing about and he knows that, as humans, we're hardwired to look out for ourselves. How many times have you compared yourself with other people and been annoyed if someone else seems to have more, or something bigger or better than you? But Jesus says that, in God's kingdom, the opposite is true. You want to be important and have the best of everything? Then put other people first, and you will gain a spiritual reward that is beyond anything the world can offer.



**Ask yourself:** Who or what would you put on the empty plinth in Trafalgar Square?

# ORDER

Chat to friends or family members and organise yourselves in order from best to worst (or first to last) in various categories, such as 'best at loading the dishwasher', 'best cook' or 'champion arm wrestler'! Alternatively, organise Prime Ministers over the last 10 years in order from best to worst, or top 10 musicals or footballers – or whatever other category you want to use.



List all the privileges you gain as you get older – more pocket money, playing with friends without adults, staying up later, watching certain programmes, getting a phone, buying alcohol, voting, etc. Now list all the responsibilities that go along with these privileges. How can we use our privileges and status to celebrate and help others?

# paper chain

Make a paper chain of people (first cut a strip of paper, then fold it several times – one way and then the other. Draw a person, ensuring the hands and feet are touching the edges. Cut out carefully to keep the chain intact, cutting around the outline and leaving the connected edges). Unfold the paper chain and, on one side, draw in faces as if the line is moving forwards. On the other side, draw in faces as if the line is moving in the opposite direction (so that the first is last and the last is first). Put your paper chain up somewhere you'll see it to remind you to put others before yourself, trusting that God will take care of you.

# ACROSTIC



Take each of the letters in the word 'first' and, for each, think of a word that reflects the qualities of God's kingdom. For example, your first word could be fair.

# STEP BACK

The next time you have the chance to push yourself forward – when treats are being shared out, when only one of something is left, or when you're arguing about who gets to choose what you watch on TV, remember Jesus' words. When we put others before ourselves on this earth, we store up even greater rewards in heaven.



Don't forget, our Harvest Picnic is at the County Park on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 1.00 p.m. Bring you own picnic, chairs or blankets so we can share this time of fellowship in the open air. Oh, and pray for good weather! We celebrate our Harvest Festival the following day at Church. Donations please for the Food Bank.



### Bishop's Certificate Course

Two new Bishop's Certificate Courses are starting very soon one held at St Martin's on a Monday morning from 10.30 - 12.00 noon beginning on the 27<sup>th</sup> September and the other at St Stephen's Barbourne on a Wednesday evening from 7.30 - 9.00 beginning on 6<sup>th</sup> October. More details are available from Rob.

## Covid Safety

We are all aware that Covid19 hasn't gone away and we still need to be vigilant, especially as the summer comes to an end and we enter into the Flu season. For this reason, I am asking you to reverse a few of the restrictions we have relaxed over the last few weeks.

- **Please ensure that you wear you mask (over nose and mouth please) as you enter and leave the building and when moving around.**
- **You may remove your mask when seated, but please put it on when we are singing.**
- **Please remember that we should still pay attention to social distancing advice.**
- **Chairs will be sanitised before you arrive.**
- **At the distribution of communion your wafer will be intincted for you. Please wear your mask as you come forward to receive.**

I hope you appreciate the ongoing need for vigilance – let's keep everyone safe.  
 Rob.

Daily Readings for week commencing 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2021		
<b>Monday</b>	2 Chronicles 2: 1-16	Mark 12: 28-34
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 Kings 19: 15-end	2 Timothy 3: 14-end <i>St Matthew</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	2 Chronicles 5	Mark 13: 1-13
<b>Thursday</b>	2 Chronicles 6: 1-21	Mark 14-23
<b>Friday</b>	2 Chronicles 6: 22-end	Mark 13: 24-31
<b>Saturday</b>	2 Chronicles 7	Mark 13-32-end

**Pray for those in need...**Sally, Tristan, Mark, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy, Mandy, Joyce, Pete, Ian, Juliette and Nicki. **Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...**Linda