

# Virtual Bread

## Week 37 (Trinity 16): Day 1 (Monday)

### GOAT!

#### Mark 9:30–37

#### 1. Opening prayer

*Almighty God, thank you for your holy presence. I welcome you. I receive you. I ask you to draw near to me. Your holy word is life-changing. Change me today, by the power of your Spirit, into the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ. Transform me into the person you want me to be, rather than the person I think I want to be. Open your word to my heart, and my heart to your word. In the name of Jesus, Amen.*

#### 2. Read Mark 9:30–37

Today we read [Mark 9:30-37](#) (click on the link, see below or turn to p.845 of the Church Bible).

<sup>30</sup>They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup>And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

#### 3. Commentary

Greatness is what the disciples desired. So much so, they ‘argued with one another about who was the greatest’ (verse 34). The response of Jesus is interesting. He didn’t slam ‘greatness.’ He redefined it. Whereas for the disciples greatness meant coming first and being in the best position, for Jesus greatness is coming last, and giving of ourselves. Jesus said, “If anyone would be first, he must be last

*of all and servant of all*" (verse 35). Perhaps only later would they have truly understood what this looked like. As they watched their Master be crucified for the sins of the world, perhaps then they realised that greatness is serving, being other-person centered, and being last rather than first.

#### **4. Reflection**

Some questions for reflection:

- Are there areas of your life where 'greatness' is addictive, where being first matters more than anything else?
- In what ways today might God be nudging you to serve others instead, and to be last rather than the first?

#### **5. Prayer**

Help me God to be a servant, to put others first, and myself last. Forgive me for the times when I've sought recognition, status and importance. Lord Jesus Christ, you are truly the greatest of all time and yet you came not to be served but to serve and give your life as a ransom for many. Thank Lord Jesus. Amen.

#### **6. Pray the Collect for this week:**

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**