



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 22 September 2024



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Reflection on Mark 9:30-37: Greatness in the Kingdom of God

Last week in **Mark 8:27-38**, we encountered Jesus' challenge to His disciples to embrace the way of the cross. He made it clear that following Him requires denying oneself, taking up our own cross, and rejecting the world's notions of success and power. This week, in **Mark 9:30-37**, we find Jesus reinforcing those same themes, but with even sharper focus on what it means to be truly great in the Kingdom of God.

At this point in Mark, Jesus is walking toward Jerusalem, fully aware that His journey will end in His crucifixion. He tells His disciples once again about His coming death and resurrection, but they don't understand. They're still trapped in a mindset shaped by the world's definitions of greatness. While Jesus speaks of sacrifice and servanthood, their hearts are preoccupied with thoughts of status and personal greatness.

On the road Jesus noticed that the disciples had been arguing, when Jesus asks them about what, because they had been arguing about who among them was the greatest out of embarrassment they don't answer. In a moment where they should have been grappling with the profound mystery of Jesus' impending sacrifice, they were instead vying for position and prestige. Their desire for personal glory blinded them to the true nature of the kingdom Jesus was bringing—a kingdom where greatness is defined not by power or prominence but by service and humility.

Jesus' response to their argument is revolutionary. He tells them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all". This turns the world's values upside down. In the world, greatness is measured by how many people serve you, how much power you wield, and how important you appear. But in Jesus' kingdom, greatness is measured by how many people you serve, how much love you give, and how willing you are to set aside your own desires for the good of others.

Jesus sees a child and places them in their midst. He says, "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives not Me but Him who sent Me". In the

ancient world, children were considered insignificant, with no power or status. By embracing a child, Jesus highlights that true greatness is not found in aligning ourselves with the powerful and influential but in caring for the vulnerable and those on the margins. So what does this passage mean for us today?

First, it challenges us to rethink our definitions of greatness. Let's be honest though—this isn't easy. Everything in our culture pushes us in the opposite direction. We are wired to seek affirmation, success, and status. To choose the path of humility and servanthood is foreign to our own desires and the world's expectations. Jesus' call to be "last of all and servant of all" isn't about self-deprecation or a lack of ambition. Rather, it's about reorienting our ambition toward something far greater than worldly success. It's about living so that our lives point to God's love and care for the least, the vulnerable, and the overlooked. It's about finding our identity not in what we achieve, but in how well we reflect the love of Christ to the people around us.

Second, this passage calls us to examine how we treat those who are often overlooked. Who are the "children" in our lives? Who are the people we pass by without a second thought—the marginalised, the vulnerable, the invisible members of our communities? Jesus tells us that how we treat these people is how we treat Him. Are we willing to welcome them, care for them, and serve them in His name?

As we reflect on **Mark 9:30-37**, let's remember that true greatness is not found in titles or recognition. It's found in a life of humility and service, modelled after Jesus Himself. Let us challenge ourselves this week to seek out opportunities to serve those around us, especially those who may seem invisible or unimportant. May we be a church that reflects the heart of Jesus by embracing His call to be "last of all and servant of all." In doing so, we'll discover the real richness and joy of living as Christ's disciples—greatness in His eyes.

Grace and peace
Rev. Aaron

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Acknowledgement of country

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Today's Bible Readings

James 3:13-18
Mark 9:30-37

What's Happening This Week

Today	Congregational Meeting 10am
Tuesday	Mainly Music 9.30am
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Fashion Parade 10.30am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
Saturday	Men's Breakfast 8am

Church Roster

Today **Next Sunday**

Kids' Church	Elizabeth & Steph	All Age Service
Duty Elder	Walter	Robyn
Organist/Pianist	Audrey	Audrey
Greeters	Dorothy B & Jill	Joyce & Marshall
Bible Readers	Nigel & Sylvia	Dudley & Joyce
Morning Tea	N/A	Mary & Chris
Hall Set Up	N/A	Brian
Sound Room	Nigel	Ross
Cleaning	Craft Club	Terryll & Lynn

*If you are unable to do your roster, **please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.***

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child

It is that time of year again, and this year's supply of Christmas Shoeboxes are sitting on the table in the foyer. This is a wonderful project, and we encourage you to be a part of it. Please take a box (or more) plus the leaflet which explains the project and gives very good gift ideas. A donation to cover project costs per shoebox is detailed on the leaflet and is strongly encouraged please. **Final date for the return of the boxes is Sunday 13 October.**

There Is Support Available

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support please let us know and how we can help by calling either;
Rev. Aaron: 0411 325 527 or Your Pastoral Carer

Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community. Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point, it allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week or if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church (Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611 **Account No:** 10120762

Other upcoming events for your diary

Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 2 October 9.30am
Church Council Meeting 8 October 7pm
Fellowship Lunch 9 October 12 Noon
Craft Club 18 October 9am
Chaira Companions 20 October 1.30pm
Mainly Music 22 October 9.30am
Men's Breakfast 26 October 8am
Pastoral Care Meeting 8 November 10.15am
Elder's Meeting 12 November 4.30pm
Church Fete 23 November 8am
BCC Family Fun Day 7 December 3pm



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

Season of creation 2024

The first fruits of hope (Rom 8:19-25)

Our congregation will celebrate CREATION SUNDAY on Sunday, 29 September 2024. An "all-age" service will be organised and led by Elizabeth. If you can bring any fruits, vegetables or flowers that grow in your gardens, please bring some with you on this day. Keep your "produce" with you until you are invited to bring it forward during the service. If you are happy to have your produce sold after the service, any money collected will be donated to the Tweed Coast Christian Education Association. Our SRE teachers are "creating disciples" with the Year 7 & 8 students at Banora Point, Tweed River & Kingscliff HS

Men's Breakfast

Meeting for breakfast at 8am on Saturday 28 September at the Twisted Fig Café (near Bunnings in Tweed Heads South), then on to our church hall for Carpet Bowls.

All men are welcome.

Fashion Parade

Ladies, the fashion parade is on Wednesday 25 September at 10.30am. Please put the date in your diary and ask some friends to come. The donation is \$10 for lunch, and there will be lucky door prizes and a guessing competition. If you could help with a slice or a small donation for the making of sandwiches, please see Jan or Mary.