

August 13, 2020

# Welcome.

“Here’s one for you to love.”

Mark 9:33-37

*They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” <sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.*

*<sup>35</sup> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”*

*<sup>36</sup> He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”*

When you first came to church, you likely came because someone brought you or invited you. It may have been as a child that your parents brought you. It may have been a friend who encouraged you to come check out a church service or program.

How were you received? Did you feel welcome? If you didn’t, then why did you come back? Were there multiple attempts to enter a variety of churches before you felt welcome? In your journey to salvation at the cross, how many times did you trip over a Christian?

In this passage, Jesus teaches that there is a move of God behind someone not just entering the church, but in anyone seeking God. When God’s children encounter someone who is searching, it is because they have been sent. Jesus says, “This is one I want you to embrace as I have.” God is at work and we affirm appointments he has made when we embrace the one who is seeking.

If I intentionally make someone who is searching for God feel unwelcome in my presence, then I am saying that God’s choice to move in that person doesn’t matter to me. I assume that I know better than God and have the authority to pick and choose who I welcome.

As the disciples argued about who belonged by Christ’s side and who did not, Christ reminds them that God is calling the most unlikely folks into his kingdom. The disciples, arguably in a position of privilege opportunity, were reminded to use that position as a place from which to serve.

Keep your eyes on those whom God is calling and find ways to serve them, to welcome them, and to see them enter into God’s family through salvation.