



## WHO IS THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

### Slide 1

Today we will meet the disciples; **Slide 2** they are arguing. What are they arguing about? **Slide 3** To find out who is the greatest among them. Is it **Slide 4** Peter, **Slide 5** James, **Slide 6** John?

**Slide 7** Who will have the best seat when Jesus is king?

Of course they don't agree, they all want to be first. But in reality, **Slide 8** it is the king who will choose.

**Slide 9** How will he make his choice? That's what we're going to see now as we listen to Michael; he's going to tell us **Slide 10** how Jesus is going to get them all to agree. Then you can answer this question:

**Slide 11** Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven for Jesus?

You can read this story again in **Slide 12** chapter 9 of Mark's Gospel.

### Slide 13 EVERY WANTS FIRST PLACE

**Slide 14** For months now, all over the country, people have been talking about Jesus; **Slide 15** they tell of all the wonders he does. He is so successful that people are seriously thinking **Slide 16** of making him king. In fact, a long time ago, God promised that he would send **Slide 17** a king called the Messiah.

**Slide 18** But which king? **Slide 19** What would he be like? **Slide 20** Where would he reign?

**Slide 21** - It would certainly be Jesus! the people say.

- Yes, if he becomes our king, **Slide 22** we would finally be free, we would be done with this evil king Herod and these Romans who rule over us and who crush us with taxes, we can't take it anymore!

- With Jesus as our king, our country **Slide 23** would be at peace, we would lack nothing, neither us nor our children!

**Slide 24** - Yes, the other day at the lake, you saw how **Slide 25** he gave free food to everyone. Yet there were more than 5000 of us, not counting the women and children!

**Slide 26** John, Peter, James and the other disciples heard everything the crowd was saying.

**Slide 27** They too think it would be great if Jesus soon becomes king. It would be a kingdom of peace, happiness and wealth. **Slide 28** And them... what would become of them then? Jesus is their hero. They have followed him from the beginning. They would see each other **Slide 29** in a place of honor.

**Slide 30** One day, while they were **Slide 31** on their way, Jesus said to them:

- Open wide your ears and remember what I am about to tell you: **Slide 32** Soon I will be delivered into the hands of wicked men, **Slide 33** and they will kill me, and three days later **Slide 34** I will rise again.

**Slide 35** The disciples understood nothing of what he had just told them, but did not ask him any questions. Their minds were somewhere else. **Slide 36** All along the way, they talked:

- When Jesus is king, **Slide 37** I will be right beside him!

- Not at all, I'm telling you **Slide 38** it's me!

**Slide 39** - No, that's my place.

**Slide 40** - You! But you weren't even there when we saw him with Moses and Elijah.

- It is rather me! **Slide 41** It was in my boat that Jesus went up to speak to the crowd, so the first place is for me!

**Slide 42** - Certainly not, I'm the oldest of them all!

Can you imagine, Jesus had just told them that he was going to die soon and **Slide 43** they were there arguing about who was the greatest and who would have the first place with him!

**Slide 44** There they were, they had reached their destination. They settled down, and then they all gathered **Slide 45** around Jesus.

**Slide 46** - What were you arguing about on the way? He asked them.

Suddenly it was so silent! **Slide 47** No one opened his mouth, not even Peter. Yet he was often the first to speak. They were ashamed. Jesus spoke again:

- If someone wants **Slide 48** to take the first place, he must take ... **Slide 49** the last place and become the servant of all the others.

They really hadn't thought of that! **Slide 50** The first place... **Slide 51** The last place **Slide 52** to be everyone's servant. It went round and round in their heads. Nobody flinched.

We only heard a few footsteps. **Slide 53** It was a little child passing by. J **Slide 54** esus beckoned him to come closer, took him by the hand and placed him there, **Slide 55** in the midst of the disciples. Then he said to them:

- Truly I tell you, unless you are converted and become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of God. Therefore whoever becomes small **Slide 56** as this child, he will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever **Slide 57** welcomes a child like this one, **Slide 58** someone who is despised, out of love for me; it is as if he were welcoming me. **Slide 59** The least among you all, well, he is the one who will be **Slide 60** the greatest in the kingdom of God.

**Slide 61** **1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!**

**Slide 62** *Do you understand what Jesus said to his disciples? He told them that before **Slide 63** wanting the first place, **Slide 64** one must first enter the kingdom of God, that is the starting point. **Slide 65** How*

do you do that? Well, you have to see yourself as you really are before God, that is, **Slide 66** as a little child. The little child, what can he give to his parents?

What can he do **Slide 67** to deserve his bottle? With what money **Slide 68** will he pay for his clothes? He depends **Slide 69** completely on his parents who will give him everything he needs for his life. He trusts **Slide 70** them and he simply receives what they give him. It is easy to understand, isn't it? Well, **Slide 71** to enter the kingdom of heaven, it's the same. Whether we are **Slide 72** 8 years old, 15 years old, or 75 years old, what can **Slide 73** we bring to God, everything belongs to him? What can we do **Slide 74** to deserve to enter heaven? Nothing! We are **Slide 75** like a little child, empty-handed. It is **Slide 76** he who gives, and his greatest gift is **Slide 77** Jesus.

So, what do we have left to do? Well, **Slide 78** quite simply to tell Him that we believe **Slide 79** in Him, that **Slide 80** we love Him, to ask Him **Slide 81** to come into our lives. He then becomes our king. He reigns in our lives. Maybe you've already done it, if not you can do it whenever you want.

But now let's see how it goes **Slide 82** in the kingdom of God. Is it like in the land **Slide 83** where we fight, push others, sometimes mistreat them, to get the best places?

**Slide 84** No! In this kingdom, the greatest, the most important, is the one **Slide 85** who does not place himself above others, who does not despise them, **Slide 86** who does not look down on them. He is not proud, **Slide 87** but he helps, he takes care even of those **Slide 88** who are unloved,

**Slide 89** who are unhappy, who suffer, he takes care **Slide 90** of the little ones, the children. Because he loves Jesus, his king, he does like him, he does good, he brings help. **Slide 91** And if no one sees him, no one knows it, is it annoying? **Slide 92** No, not at all, it doesn't matter since God sees him and do you know what he says? **Slide 93** - This little one, he is great in my kingdom!

#### **Slide 94** 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

In this conversation with his disciples, Jesus sets the record straight about our relationship with God, our eternal salvation, our entry into the kingdom of heaven. All human beings are on the same level of equality, whatever their age, whatever their experience; they are all in this same situation of total dependence on His grace; like little children, they have nothing to claim. This being the case, it is up to each one to decide to believe and receive Jesus as his savior. Then, we are part of this kingdom and it is up to us to live in a way worthy of its King. By seeing us live, our children understand better what it means to be the least. It is not the one who has to accept everything, always crashing down, but the one who respects others and makes himself respected.

**Slide 95**