

Mark 9:33-34

Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.

Jesus asked the disciples what they were disputing or arguing about. And it says that *"they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest."* But as we read Jesus' response to this, notice what Jesus did not do or say.

† **Mark 9:35-37** *And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."*

What Jesus did not do or say was rebuke or get upset with His disciples but rather used it as an opportunity to teach them. But how quick are we to rebuke or try to correct others rather than to use it as a teaching opportunity? We seem to be quick to speak, yet slow to teach, which is not a good thing, because speaking at someone gets less response or results as teaching someone.

In my job, for years I was the trainer, teaching others how to do their job. And there is a big difference in speaking to someone, rather than teaching someone. Because when you speak to someone, they are more likely to drift off into other places with their minds or even fall asleep. But when you teach them, they want to learn, they want to be engaged with what you are saying. When we speak at others they feel like they are being corrected or rebuked. But when we teach others, they feel like they are growing, learning and as they do, they want to listen and learn.

Little kids love going to school and they love learning. But as they grow up, they start to think that they know it all (we all did as kids), so they tend to feel like they are being spoken to, rather than being taught.

How many of us have gotten into that place or mindset where they think that they know it all, or know enough that they don't need to be taught anymore? They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks. But we are never too old that we cannot learn. I have been a Christian for over 40 years, and I am no longer a young spring chicken, but more of an old rooster. But as I read the bible every day, I still learn from it. The Holy Spirit always brings things to light to me from God's word.

So maybe if we feel like we are being spoken to, instead of being taught, it could be one of two things. Either the other person really just wants to talk to hear themselves talk, or, they want to

teach you, and the problems is not that they are not teaching you, its that you are not listening, so you can be taught.

So, let's have a heart to learn when others speak, especially when the older men and women talk to you, and not blow them off because we think we know better than them.

- † **2 Chronicles 10:8 (NLT2)** *But Rehoboam rejected the advice of the older men and instead asked the opinion of the young men who had grown up with him and were now his advisers.*
- † **Job 30:1 (NLT2)** *But now I am mocked by people younger than I, by young men whose fathers are not worthy to run with my sheepsdogs.*
- † **Job 36:15 (MSG)** *But those who learn from their suffering, God delivers from their suffering.*
- † **Proverbs 1:8-9 (NLT2)** *My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don't neglect your mother's instruction. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and be a chain of honor around your neck.*
- † **Matthew 11:29** *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*