



Life Group Sermon Study Notes
“We are the Church: A People of Service”

September 28, 2025

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

Who is one person you looked up to as a child? What about them led you to look up to them?

Keep, give away, throw away: Pumpkin Spice latte, sweet potato pie, s'mores.

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.kingdomchurchmemphis.org

Mark 10:35-45 (CSB)

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached him and said, “Teacher, we want you to do whatever we ask you.”

“What do you want me to do for you?” he asked them.

They answered him, “Allow us to sit at your right and at your left in your glory.”

Jesus said to them, “You don’t know what you’re asking. Are you able to drink the cup I drink or to be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

“We are able,” they told him.

Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink, and you will be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with. But to sit at my right or left is not mine to give; instead, it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten disciples heard this, they began to be indignant with James and John. Jesus called them over and said to them, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions act as tyrants over them. But it is not so among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you will be a slave to all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

What does this text teach us about God? About us?

The Gospel of Mark was written by Mark, a disciple of the apostle Peter, and so it was written from the perspective of the apostle Peter. Mark gives us a Gospel that is filled with revelation of who Jesus is and the lessons he taught through his ministry, parables, and conversations with the disciples. Our passage is a powerful lesson in leadership that Jesus taught the disciples at a critical time in Jesus’ life. Jesus had to make sure that the disciples knew what it meant to serve as leaders in the kingdom of God. Because his kingdom is like no other, disciples of Jesus must lead differently than leaders in the world. Leading in the kingdom of God means serving.

There is no greater example of this type of leadership than Jesus. Jesus’ life, death on a cross and resurrection are consummate acts of leadership. Jesus, being God, became a lowly man and endured temptation, poverty and humanity as we experience it just so that the harsh realities of our fallen world would no longer have power to consume us. He died on the cross so we would not have to suffer the punishment we deserved for our rebellion against God and be able to enjoy a relationship with him. He died so that the finality of death would end and we would no longer have to fear its bitterness. Finally, Jesus rose from the grave to assure us of our promise of eternal life with him. Jesus’ leadership was never for his sake. It was always for us.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Are there similarities and differences in how you would compare and contrast greatness in the world today with how Jesus defines greatness in our text? What are they?

Pastor Mel said “You don’t become great by being served. You become great by serving.” How can one’s understanding of being a servant make this hard to believe?

What is significant about Jesus’ use of the Son of Man in verses 33 and 45 in relation to our text?

Application

James and John were two of Jesus's closest disciples, yet they still craved a worldly form of leadership. What are ways you can avoid the pitfall of only being close to the things of God without a true relationship with Jesus?

Although James and John had questionable intentions, they still brought their request boldly to Jesus. Who do you have in your life to pray with you about what you want God to do in your life and to help you know what God wants to do in your life?

As we pursue [RADICAL GENEROSITY](#), how can you give more of your time and/or talent to serve more?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

Pray for more leaders with a heart to serve in God's Kingdom the way Jesus has called us to.