

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

April 28, 2019

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Serves

Scripture Passage: Mark 10:35-45

The Point: Jesus demonstrated humble service by paying the ransom for our sin.

I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- A. This session focuses on Jesus' call for His disciples to become great through humble, sacrificial service.
- B. Jesus' ministry throughout Galilee and the surrounding regions had reached a turning point.
- C. This marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry in the region of Judea (v.1).
- D. Jesus increasingly encountered hostility from Jewish religious leaders (v.2).
- E. All of the events in this chapter show that Jesus did not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for all who believe in Him.
- F. As the group continued on their way to Jerusalem, Jesus focused on what was to come (vv.32-34).
 - 1. The disciples seemed to ignore Jesus' predictions of His coming crucifixion.
 - 2. Instead, James and John approached Jesus and requested positions of prominence in His kingdom.

II. THE REQUEST (Mark 10:35-39a)

- A. After Jesus' third prediction of His upcoming suffering, death, and resurrection, James and John approached Him with a request to occupy the two most prominent positions in Jesus' kingdom.
- B. Their approach was selfish (v.35).
 - 1. They called Jesus "teacher" instead of "Lord".
 - 2. They sought to trick Jesus to agree to their request before hearing it.
- C. Jesus did not immediately rebuke them for their lack of humility (v.36).
 - 1. His question was designed to get them to think before they spoke.
- D. Without hesitation or any hint of shame, they made their request that Jesus place them in the seats of greatest prominence (v.37).
 - 1. They were still holding to the concept of a military-political Messiah who would remove the Romans and restore the kingdom to Israel.
- E. Jesus responded by telling them that His Kingdom was not going to be what they thought (v.38).
 - 1. "cup" = joy and fullness or wrath and judgment.
 - 2. "Can you handle being immersed in what I'm about to be immersed in?"
- F. They did not understand all that was involved in their commitment (v.39a).

III. THE REACTION (Mark 10:39b-41)

- A. James suffered imprisonment and martyrdom for his faith in Christ (Acts 12:2).
- B. John was arrested for the gospel (Acts 4:1-3) and endured forced exile on the island of Patmos "because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus"(Rev. 1:9).

1. The parent of a soldier killed in battle. Heartbreak and pride.
- B. This was not His decision but the Father, it was a matter of submission to the Father's will and authority (v.40).
- C. The other disciples became angry at the request because they too coveted the positions of honor in Christ's kingdom (v.41).

IV. **THE RANSOM (Mark 10:42-45)**

- A. Jesus gathered them and began to teach them (v.42).
 1. "lord it over" = demanding service of them, pushing someone down to elevate oneself.
 2. "those in high positions" = civil and religious leaders.
 3. "act as tyrants" = forceful domination.
- B. Jesus reminded them that they had witnessed the results of living under leaders who oppressed their citizens.
- C. The arrogant attitude of ungodly rulers was not appropriate for followers of the Messiah (v.43).
- D. In Christ's kingdom, whoever wants to become great must adopt a lifestyle of humility, service, and sacrifice.
- E. Jesus took the analogy another step by adding that the person who wants to be first will be a slave to all (v.44).
 1. Who would want to and be willing to be a slave to everybody?
- F. Jesus states what it means to be a servant (v.45).
 1. "give His life" = His voluntary sacrifice demonstrated His love for sinners.
 2. "ransom" = He took our penalty on Himself.
 3. "for many" = all that would receive, anyone, ALL.

V. **CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

- A. People must carefully consider the cost of following Jesus.
- B. Believers must examine their motives for service, seeking to please God in all they do.
- C. Believers point others to Jesus by selflessly serving others.
- D. Teaching Ideas
 1. Create Interest
 - a. Ask the group to discuss how people push to gain positions of power, influence or prestige. What usually happens to those that seek it for the wrong reason or do it in the wrong way?
 2. Closing Challenge
 - a. What are some ways you could serve others?
- E. Don't Forget!!!
 1. Serves & Mark 10:35-45
 2. Jesus demonstrated humble service by paying the ransom for our sin.

Dr. Smith serves as the lead state missionary with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and leads the Sunday School, Small Groups, Discipleship and Faith Development ministries. Visit their website at gabaptist.org/groups for more information and other resources to aid your class, group or ministry. You can also connect with Dr. Smith at [facebook.com/GABaptistGroups](https://www.facebook.com/GABaptistGroups). Dr. Smith is available for conferences or other speaking opportunities and can be contacted at tsmith@gabaptist.org.