



“The Path to Greatness”

October 26, 2025

Mark 10:32-45



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Introduction:

How would you define *greatness*?

What if, there *is* a type of greatness that honors God?

Jesus Prophesies His Death (Mark 10:32-34):

And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise”.

- Jesus knew what lay ahead of Him; he willingly lays down his life! (John 10:17)

James and John (Mark 10:35-40):

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” And they said to him, “We are able.”

- James and John are seeking the wrong kind of greatness.
- Jesus challenges their zeal, while acknowledging God’s control over His death and crucifixion.
- What do the “cup” and “baptism” symbolize?
- We can often look at the zeal of the James and John negatively, but just maybe we could use some of their zeal and devotion to Jesus! (Romans 12:11)

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Greatness in Jesus' Eyes (Mark 10:41-45):

"You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many".

- Jesus doesn't rebuke the desire to be *great* but redefines what the path looks like to get there.
- What is the significance of the title "Son of Man" to this teaching of Jesus? (See Daniel 7:13-14)
- What amazes you about Jesus as you consider what he is teaching and demonstrating here?

The Beauty of Jesus:

The only ONE who had authority and power and wasn't corrupted by it, but used it to serve and love others.

And it's this ONE who desires friendship and intimacy with US (John 15:15)

How can we grow in serving others like Jesus did?

1. To be a servant, spend time with one who is a servant!
 - Being with Jesus is the way to become like Jesus
2. Pursue knowing and practicing the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 14:7)
 - Jesus was empowered by the Spirit to preach good news, heal the sick, give sight to the blind, proclaim freedom for the captives.
 - Try and experiment in different areas of ministry
3. Use your gifts to serve in the life of the church (1 Peter 4:10, Gal 5:13-15)
 - Prayer, Children's ministry (director), Worship host

Reflection:

Spending time with Jesus is the greatest pursuit!

Do you know the gifts of the Spirit manifested in your life?

Where might you serve in the life of this church family?

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