

32- Ambitious Servants Mark 10:35-45

Ordinary men, full of failure and at the same time confidence were the lot of the disciples. Even though they had Jesus present in the flesh, they struggled to grasp the meaning of the words of Jesus, to get self out of the way so that they could understand. They were ambitious servants.

I- The Ambitious Request:

Mark 10:35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire. 36 And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? 37 They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.

James and John along with Peter had been on the mountain when Jesus was transfigured. These three were the inner most circle of Jesus disciples. These other two had heard the special promise made to Peter. *Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Jesus said in *Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

So this ruling over the kingdom was not totally foreign to what Jesus had taught them. The mother of James and John was the one doing the asking. *Matthew 20:20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.*

II- The Cup and Baptism:

He asked if they were willing to suffer as He would. *Mark 10:38 But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?* The evidence that they were progress in their devotion to Christ is found here by their answer. *Mark 10:39 And they said unto him, We can.*

They still believed that He would triumph in the end even though He had repeatedly told them of His soon coming death.

Paul declared in *Philippians 3:10-11 HCSB My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.*

Their hearts were right even though they still struggled to understand. Remember *1 Samuel 16:7 NASB But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

Understand their heart is not any different from ours as we struggle to flesh out God's will in ours. We see that Thomas has spoken the fears of the disciples in *John 11:16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.*

III- The Future:

Being a part of something that is worthy of giving everything is when we really find passion from the depth of our being that we never knew existed. *Mark 10:39 ...And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:*

Jesus told these men that they indeed would suffer the cup and baptism. All but John died a martyr's death according to tradition. Oh, but to be a part of something worth dying for and then living our life each day giving all we have to the cause.

IV- Keep on Serving:

Jesus tells them that the sitting on the right and left was not His to give. *Mark 10:40 But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.* The reaction of the other then is quite insightful. *Mark 10:41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John.* I am sure that they reason they were angry is that they had not thought of it first. Jesus caught this moment as another opportunity to teach and show them His grand purpose and theirs as well.

Mark 10:42 But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. 43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: 44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

There is a sharp contrast between the lordship of the world and the way the Kingdom of God works. We are to serve. Hear the words of Paul in *Galatians 6:7-9 NASB Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.*

After all the greatest example of this is found in the Lord Jesus. *Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*