

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:5–6 (ESV)

Mark 10:32-45 – Two Paths To Greatness

November 24, 2019

4. Conclusion

1. **The pathway to true greatness is found in denying ourselves and serving others, just as Jesus denied himself and served us.**
2. **The more we are willing to deny ourselves to serve others for the kingdom, the greater our rewards will be in the kingdom.**

Life Group Questions

1. Read Mark 10:31-45. Why did Jesus say that James and John didn't really understand what they were asking? What were they missing?
2. Why were the rest of the disciples indignant with James and John?
3. What is the difference between the way the world understands greatness and the way people in the kingdom understand greatness?
4. What does it mean that Jesus came to "give his life as a ransom"?
5. What is the relationship between Mark 10:42-44 and Mark 10:45? In other words, what is the relationship between our serving and Jesus' serving?
6. Read John 13:3-17. The disciples still didn't understand what Jesus taught them about true greatness at the Last Supper. Nobody took a humble position and washed the feet of the other disciples when they entered. What kind of impression do you think it left when Jesus did that dirty job? What are some humble out-of-the-ordinary ways we can serve others that will leave a lasting impression?
7. How does knowing true greatness is found by serving others change the way you think about celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas?
8. This weekend, we learned the more sacrifices we make to serve others for the kingdom, the greater our reward will be in the kingdom. How does that truth change the way you think about the inconveniences and sacrifices that come with loving and serving people?

1. Jesus modeled greatness by self-denial.

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, ... Mark 10:32 (ESV)

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. Mark 8:31 (ESV)

...for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." Mark 9:31 (ESV)

...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." Mark 10:33–34 (ESV)

Jesus knew what would happen to Him because He knew His Bible.

Jesus knew what would happen to Him because He is God

...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. Acts 2:23 (ESV)

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." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." Mark 10:38–40 (ESV)

And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. Mark 10:41 (ESV)

2. James and John modeled greatness by self-promotion.

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." Mark 10:35 (ESV)

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. Matthew 20:20 (ESV)

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." Mark 10:36–37 (ESV)

3. Jesus explains the path to greatness in God's kingdom is found by walking in his footsteps.

And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "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." Mark 10:42–44 (ESV)

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45 (ESV)