

Cross references and additional connections: Look these up!

- ❑ *Mirrored James and John Stories:* Luke 22:24-30, Matthew 20:20-29
- ❑ *Mirrored Prediction of Jesus' Death Stories:* Luke 18:31-34, Matthew 20:17-19, Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- ❑ *Right Hand [of God] (in Mark):* Mark 12:36, Mark 14:62, Mark 16:19
- ❑ *Jesus Serving His Disciples:* John 13:1-17

Questions for reflection:

- ❖ Why do you think that James and John thought that they had the right to sit in the highly honorable positions that they requested? (Vs. 37)
- ❖ Examine yourself to determine - am I in some way trying to exalt myself?
- ❖ Why do you think the other disciples became indignant with James and John?
- ❖ When we serve others in any way, why should we do so from the heart? (Vs.45)

Looking Forward: Mark 10:46-52

Gospel of Mark

Responding to the Messiah



Mark 10:32-45

The Upside Down Kingdom

Looking Back: Mark 10:17-31

List some ways we have seen Jesus serve so far in Mark:

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Loving God with your actions

Jesus introduces us to the Idea of the upside down kingdom where the greatest is to make themselves the least, and become the servant of all.

- Find a way to serve your family this week in a way they wouldn't expect, without expecting anything in return.
- It's easy to ask for selfish things From God, examine the types of requests you are bringing to God and the motives behind them. Try approaching prayer in a new way this week, focusing on the furthering of the Kingdom. Instead of simply asking God to do things for you, ask God what He wants to do through you.

Loving God with your heart

Jesus said in Matthew 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Our desires, our emotions and the things we seek after come from what is in our heart. Our desire should not be for greatness, but rather to serve the great one, Jesus, who set the perfect example of humility and total surrender in laying down His life to save mankind.

- ❑ Ask God to reveal the things in your heart that may be hindering you from “seeing” clearly how you are to serve in the kingdom.
- ❑ Strive to have a servant's heart, and a grateful heart in order to live in such a way that we will one day hear “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Loving God with your mind

- How does our culture view serving? If you were to ask someone on the street what service meant, what would they likely reply? Does our cultural view of service line up with the way Jesus presents it?
- What makes someone “great” in America? What are some ways that this can hinder Americans serving in their local churches the way that Jesus has called them to?
- If what makes someone “great” in the Kingdom is serving (“being a slave of all” vs.44), how should my life look compared to those in the culture around me?
- If we understand that our sin flesh wants the opposite of what Jesus has called us to, how can we check our desires and thoughts to see if they are kingdom minded?

Want to look deeper?

- Go back and read Mark 9:15-50. I know it’s long- but the reminder is worth it! As you’re reading, think about the idea of status: Who’s “in”? Who’s “out”? We want to think that the people of prominent social or economic standing are those who would be exalted. BUT look at the people who Mark highlights as the ones who are “getting it-” children, people with impure spirits, poor, blind, outcast.
- Now notice the disciples’ constant pushing to figure out where they fit in the status of the kingdom: 9:34 “Who is greatest?”, 10:28 “We left everything!” “Let one of us sit at your right and left!” Jesus’ response? You will surely drink my cup. And they do. It’s an upside-down perspective. The place of honor and exaltation is the place of greatest service and self-sacrifice.