

The Leader Who Serves

Mark 10:32-45

6/13/04

Intro

As we pick up the story in Mark 10, Jesus and the disciples are on their way to Jerusalem. While on the way Jesus is telling them once again that he would be mistreated and killed and yet rise again after three days.

But then James and John surprise us by coming up to Jesus and asking for a personal favor; they ask if they can get a promotion. In fact, they want the highest positions in any new Kingdom Jesus puts together.

The other disciples become indignant and it becomes an opportunity to teach them all a very important lesson – servant leadership. **Servant leadership** sounds like an **oxymoron**.

These verses give us insights into the heart of the Lord for us to be servants to everyone around us.

I. Leadership the Selfish Way

A. Oblivious to the concerns of others

- Jesus had just been explaining that they would go to Jerusalem and that He would be killed.
- James and John do not seem to be concerned with what will be happening to Jesus, but instead take the opportunity to submit a request for themselves.

- When we look out for own interests it is easy to be oblivious of the needs of those around us.

Philippians 2:4-5, “Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Illus – imagine going to a restaurant and the waiter is grumpy and bossy.

B. Is self serving

- “We want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”
- It’s hard to even imagine this statement in light of what he just said would happen to Him.
- The scriptures show that God is not pleased with those who seek to serve self.

3 John 9-10, “I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.”

C. Seeks position over others

- In Vs 42 – The Gentiles lord it over those they lead.

Illus – Today we have power seats, power lunches, power ties, etc, the strategy is to have an advantage over others.

- The result was that the other 10 became indignant.
- This is the fruit of trying to get position over others—God resists the proud and so does everyone else.

Illus – the problem is at first it seems that you can get more done by being bossy and dominant.

Illus – Ronald Reagan – his staff said that they loved him and wanted to please him.

II. Leadership God's Way

A. Greatness through serving

- Notice that He doesn't discourage the desire for greatness, but simply redefines how to become great.
- But greatness must also be redefined – we must seek to be great in the eyes of God. Why?

1 Peter 5:5-6, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.”

- We have a policy at the church that we seek leaders amongst the servants.

Illus – I met a pastor from another city who said he had many people upset with him...

B. That we would be servant of all

- Jesus is saying to us that He wants us to consider ourselves to be servants of all, not just of some.

Illus – In the world, greatness is often measured by how many people serve you, but in the eyes of the Lord, greatness is measured by how many people you serve.

1 Kings 12:6-11 the foolishness of Rehoboam.

- Serving is a powerful way to minister to others.

Illus – my first day at Red Lion...

C. Every spiritual gift is given for others

- If you went through and looked at each spiritual gift you would discover that each edifies others.
- **The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...**

1 Corinthians 14:12, “Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.”

Ephesians 4:29, “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”

III. Jesus is the Example

A. Is a servant greater than his master?

- This is an important question for us all.

John 13:4-5, “Jesus got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.”

John 13:15-16, “For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master.”

B. He came to serve

- Jesus made it clear that this is why he was sent.
- To serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.
- And a servant is willing to do the unpleasant tasks.

Illus – Jesus washed their feet – the lowest of servants did this.

C. We must also be an example for others

- Jesus made it clear that this is why he was sent.
- To serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

1 Timothy 4:12, “Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.”

Illus – African pastor who asked about cooking at home...

Conclusion

There is great joy in serving. Those who have a heart after God will truly seek to serve and will discover the blessings of God in it.