

Mark 10:35-45

- I. The Request and response – Mark 10:35-36
 - a. Notice the two brothers. James and John come to ask Jesus a question. – Mark 10:35
 - b. Very dynamic individuals. If you wish, I can give you more notes on them later.
- II. What was the question asked? – Mark 10:37
 - a. We may be wondering why this question? What is the big deal? The answer is because of what is wrapped up with this question.
 - b. To understand this, we need to understand the connotations being referenced
 - i. The Right hand
 1. The Right side was the side of power and strength – Psalm 118:15-16
 2. The Right hand is considered the more honorable – Psalm 45:9
 - ii. The Left hand was the hand for defense as it would carry the shield
 - iii. Both hands mentioned together signify a sense of an intimate association that is reserved only for the HIGHEST AND NOBLEST of attendees to the King.
 - iv. Maybe because of their position among the 12 they thought they were entitled to the granting of this request.
 - c. Before we get to harsh...how many times do we sometimes ask for something that is not appropriate for us to ask.
 - i. How many times do we request of God that which He has not planned on giving us or very specifically stated that we should not or will not have?
 - ii. Sadly, our requests, at times, are for selfish reasons – James 4:1-3¹
 - iii. How many times we find ourselves praying, “Lord give me something to be happy” instead of, “Lord help me to be Holy!”
- III. The challenge – Mark 10:38
 - a. Jesus asks them two questions: Can they drink the same cup and be baptized with the same baptism?
 - b. What is Jesus asking here (Notice how fast they answer)! Are they able to die with Him? How about for Him?
 - c. Are we willing to die with Christ? (This has a whole new process in our last point)
 - i. We are called to take up His cross – Mark 8:34

¹ (James 4:1-3 NKJV) - “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

- ii. It is assumed we accept this position of death just by reason of our acceptance of life in Jesus – Romans 6:8²; 2 Timothy 2:11
 - iii. But many times we try to cling to the temporal and the limited at the expense of the eternal and the unlimited – Matthew 16:25-26
 - IV. The truth – Mark 10:39-40
 - a. Jesus says they will go through trials and persecution like He was about to. However, the very thing they are looking for, was not for Jesus to Give but for God to appoint.
 - b. Notice it says it is for those whom it was prepared. Who are those who will sit in these seats? This is my opinion on who it will be:
 - i. First, I believe it will be the ones who are not actively seeking it or expect it.
 - ii. Second, it is one who practices such verses as 1 Peter 5:6³
 - 1. Trickier said than done,
 - 2. if we try this with unclean motives, it is as if we don't try obeying in the first place.
 - V. The response – Mark 10:41
 - a. How quickly our pride sometimes drives wedges between each other - Proverbs 13:10⁴
 - b. How many times we fall into that trap ourselves? Our arrogance or pride pits us against each other. And our community is violently ripped apart at the seam.
 - i. It is a struggle that we must guard ourselves against for there is only one end to pride – Proverbs 16:18
 - ii. If we ignore our pride, we must pay attention to Psalm 66:18
 - VI. The final lesson – Mark 10:42-45
 - a. Jesus draws the comparison between the supposed mighty ones or the truly great ones
 - i. The Gentile rulers lord over and exercise authority
 - 1. Lording = using their position for personal advancement and advantage.
 - 2. exercise authority – Foerster says, “Here the primary sense is that they ‘exercise power over them.’ There is no earthly government without the use of force. But if the reference in [here] is not merely to the authorities, it is likely that the word implies the tendency towards compulsion or oppression which is immanent in all earthly power, and not merely in political.”

² (Romans 6:8 NKJV) - “Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,”

³ (1 Peter 5:6 NKJV) - “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,”

⁴ Prov. 13:10 By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised is wisdom.

- b. Believers are to be different – different word for slave and servant
 - i. The ones who wish to be great (high positioned) ...must be the servant (Willingly putting aside our own preference for another)
 - ii. The ones who wish to be first (Place of prominence) ...must be a slave (removing our personal free will and rights for our fellow believers in Christ).
- c. How this looks in our live and we alone can answer this in every situation, but I can at least give us a few places
 - i. We are to be the servant and slave of others
 - 1. We are to assume the position of nothing. Dependent on each other for the other to use the gifts that God has given them for our benefit. But for us to use our gifts for everyone else!
 - 2. We are to sacrifice our free will and rights for the rights and needs of the other...but it goes deeper than this.
 - 3. We should always ask ourselves... “Is what I am doing reflective of what it means to be a servant and slave of Christ to my brothers in Christ”
 - ii. We give our lives to be a ransom for each other
 - 1. Not being forced under each other but willing to give our very lives by our own volition.
 - 2. This is our call of surrender. By accepting Jesus as our Savior, we accept what it means to surrender. Fully. Unable to retain our own free will. It is our call. It is our duty – Romans 12:10⁵

⁵ (Romans 12:10 NKJV) - “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;”