
Son of God & Servant of All

This week we took a break from our series in Daniel and took a fresh look at Jesus. We identified with the disciples who approached Jesus with more of a cultural paradigm than a paradigm He reveals Himself. We, like them, tend to only take the parts of Jesus and his teaching we want. The result is that we have a cafeteria plan Christianity. But because Jesus is more powerful than we can comprehend and more humble and loving in how he uses His power for another than we can truly grasp, we must take an accurate prognosis of ourselves, see the appropriate paradigm for our lives, and embrace the actual person of Jesus Christ.

Mark 10:42-45

⁴² 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. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Discussion Questions

1. Mitchell said the context is important for understanding this passage, particularly as Jesus had just finished sharing (for the third time in Mark) that His mission was to suffer and die. Why was it difficult for the disciples to understand Jesus' teaching? Why did they (James and John) immediately follow with the question of whether or not they could sit at the right and left hand of Jesus when He came into His Kingdom?
2. What was Jesus prognosis of their request? How did He communicate it was more culturally shaped than Kingdom shaped? How does what we ask Jesus for reveal us?
3. Jesus gave the disciples an appropriate paradigm for the Kingdom that was in direct contrast to their request. What was His response? How does His response force us to change our paradigms?
4. When you think of greatness do you think of being a servant? Within this paradigm who is someone in your life who has modeled greatness? When you think of the first place do you think of a slave to all? Why is this so challenging for you? Us?

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5. Jesus ends this section by giving us the reason why we can have an accurate prognosis of ourselves and look honestly at an appropriate paradigm for our lives- because of His actual person. It turns out Jesus is the long awaited Messiah they anticipated, He was just more powerful than they could imagine and more humble in using his power for others than they could comprehend. In revealing this about Himself Jesus combined two Messianic passages- Daniel 7 and Isaiah 53. How does this “bigger box” (higher than they thought and more low than they could imagine) enhance their relationship with Jesus?

 6. Jesus gave his life as a ransom for many, buying us from slavery of our sin, service to our culture, and human vanity (Mt 6, Jn 8, Rm 6) to free us for service to Him. Is this challenging to you? Why? What are you a servant to culturally? How are you a slave?

 7. Jesus gave his life as a ransom for many, buying us from slavery of our sin, service to our culture, and human vanity (Mt 6, Jn 8, Rm 6) to free us for service to Him. Is this challenging to you? Why? What are you a servant to culturally? How are you a slave?