

**Focus passage: Mark 10:35-45**

**35** 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." **36** And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" **37** And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." **38** 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?" **39** 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, **40** 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." **41** And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. **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."

*What stands out to you from this passage?*

*Is the request of James and John surprising to you?*

*This is not the first discussion about being the greatest, read **Mark 9:33-37** for review. Having already been challenged in this regard, James and John return to the subject again. What does that say about their desire for greatness?*

*After telling them that they do not know what they ask, Jesus asks them if they can drink the cup and be baptized as he will. What do you think this means?*

*Jesus is asking if they will be able to endure the same fate, to share in his sufferings, that come as a result of following him. Is that something we expect as disciples and are we prepared for such hardships?*

*The disciples seek greatness like what is seen in v. 42, but Jesus has a different vision. What does his idea of greatness look like?*

*As alluded to in v. 45, see Jesus' true greatness on display in his ultimate act of service and humility in **Mark 15:21-32**. Intending to mock Jesus, people call him King and Christ, but in this sacrifice we see that he truly is both.*

*How can you apply this Scripture to your life?*

