

FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS  
Do You Know What You Are Asking For?  
Mark 10:35-45

Jesus warns us that to be well-stationed in His future kingdom, you must be a sacrificial servant of others.

**The Background: Mark 10:32—34**

Jesus forecasting for the third time the ultimate destination for his earthly mission—the cross, and the resurrection.

On the road heading south along the Jordan River with Jericho their next stop, but Jerusalem the ultimate destination.

A similar announcement to one given six months earlier.

A dispute broke out then—which one of them was to be the greatest in the coming Kingdom (Luke 9:46)

In Mark 10, the disciples were at it again. Angling and disputing about positions in the coming Messianic Kingdom. Dreaming of the thrones they had heard Jesus speak of just after the departure of the rich young ruler.

What Jesus said about His coming suffering just wasn't computing.

**1. The Way Not to Seek Positions of Influence From Christ, Mark 10:35-37.**

A. Jesus first approached by James and John's mother (Matt 20:20-21).

B. The two sons follow their mother—same request (Mark 10:35-37).

Possessed of a false sense of personal importance due to privileges (Mark 5:37; 9:2).

A disrespectful and presumptuous request born out of an ambitious spirit.

These self-appointed leaders were still crude infant followers of Jesus.

Christian, do you realize that this could be true of you?

If you are not striving to develop spiritual maturity, you will remain or revert to spiritual infancy. Spiritual babies act like these disciples did.

**2. When You Appeal to Christ, Do you Know What You are Asking For? 10:38--40.**

A very gentle reproof for a very vain request: "You don't know what you're asking."

"Cup" in the Old Testament could be a symbol of joy and satisfaction (Ps 23:5) or a symbol of the wrath of God's judgment upon human sin (Isaiah 51:21-22).

In John the Baptist's movement, baptism was a symbol for repentance from sin. Jesus identified it as a symbol of his redemptive mission—assuming the burden of men's sins.

The disciples did not recognize that participation in His glory would involve participation in his sufferings.

What kind of position do you aspire to in the world to come? Whatever you do to serve Christ's mission now determines your position in glory.

### 3. The Remedy for Spiritual Vanity—Make Service your Priority (10:41-44).

Resentment--the natural reaction of a competitive spirit—not a servant spirit.

Why are you behaving like the political leaders you despise? (verse 42)

Position in the Kingdom of God will not be a birthright. It will be determined by service.

The order of life for our common dealings as disciples must be love expressed in service.

This is why a healthy church operates on the rule: *first serve, then lead*. Godly leadership potential is evidenced in demonstrated faithfulness and loving service.

### 4. Jesus set the Ultimate Example for Leadership (10:45).

Jesus' connection of the principle of servanthood with the title *Son of Man* would have reminded the disciples of Isaiah's grand description of the Messiah's suffering service (Isaiah 53:3-6).

Jesus, as the messianic Servant, offered himself as the ultimate guilt-offering represented in Jewish sacrificial system.

His service has ransomed many out of alienation from God, subjection to death, and slavery to sin.

Who are the "many"? Those who trust Him to be their Redeemer.

Are you among the "many"?

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