



## Lessons for Disciples - A Kingdom of Servants

### Key idea:

Disciples must follow Jesus in rejecting the world's grasping for power, choosing to live as servants, willing to be mistreated and suffer, trusting God the Father to vindicate His followers in His own time.

### Key text:

Mark 10:32-45

They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. <sup>33</sup> "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, <sup>34</sup> who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise." <sup>35</sup> Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." <sup>36</sup> "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. <sup>37</sup> They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." <sup>38</sup> "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" <sup>39</sup> "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, <sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." <sup>41</sup> When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. <sup>42</sup> Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

### Key points:

1. For the first time, Mark informs his readers that Jesus is heading to Jerusalem, the City of the Great King. This prompts the question - "How will He be received?"

2. Jesus gives the third prediction of His death. This one expands on the previous predictions, adding the details that the Jewish leaders will deliver Him over to the Romans, who will mock, spit on, and scourge Him. Once again, however, He predicts that after being killed He will be raised from the dead after three days.
3. Instead of empathizing with Jesus or asking questions, the disciples again seek worldly greatness and power. This time, James and John ask to be seated at Jesus' right and left hand when He sits on His throne of glory.
4. Jesus again teaches on the nature of greatness in the kingdom - being a servant and slave to others. This is contrary to the way of the world and is based on Jesus' actions, especially His impending death.

**Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why does Mark point out that Jesus' destination is Jerusalem? What does this indicate to the reader?
3. What do James and John seem to think will happen when Jesus and the disciples arrive in Jerusalem?
4. James and John believe Jesus is the Messiah and that He will sit on a throne in glory. What is right about their understanding? What is wrong with their understanding?
5. Why does Jesus predict His death for the third time? Why does He give even more detail?
6. Mark has already included an incident of Jesus predicting His death followed by the disciples seeking worldly power and greatness (see Mark 9:31-37). Why does he include this similar incident just a few verses later? What does this tell me about the depth of the grip of this world's view of power and greatness upon the human heart?
7. What is my first reaction to hearing Jesus call me to be a servant and slave to others? What do I think would happen if I tried to live as a servant to all?
8. Why does Jesus ground the call to servanthood in His actions? How does this strengthen the call for all disciples and citizens of the Kingdom?
9. How can I live as a servant this week?
10. Who can I reach out to this week to serve and bless?