

Leaders who Serve – Mark 10:42-45

TSK, Handfuls, Gill, Geneva, JFB, Poole, GreekLexicon, Robertson, Barnes, Trapp, Henry, Clarke, Calvin, Eeclctic, Alexander, Gaebelein,

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: At least two of Jesus' disciples **wanted to have prominent leadership positions** in his kingdom – a kingdom they thought was coming soon on earth. They wanted to be in prominent positions **in order to be served by others!**

First, Jesus told them that **his kingdom was spiritual and heavenly**. Second, Jesus then told them that **if they wanted to have great positions and rewards in his heavenly kingdom in the future they had to learn to serve others on earth**. This is God's message today.

Our headings are:

The Gentiles (外邦人) rule by Domination

The Godly rule by servanthood (服侍) - Declared

The Godly rule by servanthood - Demonstrated

Our goals are: **Instead of promoting your ego (自我) and power, you will learn to serve the flock. In doing this, Christ will be exalted and you will be rewarded.**

The Gentiles Rule by Domination

42 But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

1. In order to teach his disciples, Jesus called them near to himself.

He did not want to embarrass them on account of their pride. This is the graciousness of the Savior.

2. Jesus then showed his disciples how James and John were acting like Gentile leaders.

a. The Gentiles ruled with domination – cruelty残酷. They ruled as tyrants暴君. They acted arbitrarily独断专权地. They wanted to be served, just as **James and John wanted to be served.**

b. The Gentiles stroked their own ego. They felt like they accomplished things by virtue of their actions and wanted the praise for their actions, **just as James and John.** They wanted their names on monuments纪念碑. They were fighting for a legacy.

3. Jesus said these things to check the pride of his disciples, to expose their vanity虚荣, and to challenge their sinful ambitions野心 – sinful ambitions which were shown by their lust for pre-eminence卓越, 出色.

Those who rule like the Gentiles are unsuitable leaders for the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

4. Lessons:

a. Some leaders see success by how much they can control others...how much people have to beg them for things. Other leaders see success by what they can get...how many plaques徽章 and awards they can put up on their walls. This is what you see in the lives of some politicians, sportsmen, and doctors.

b. It is natural to desire to see how much you can control others and see what you can get from the people over whom you rule, for man is always lured by self-love. It is supernatural to desire to give what you can to the people over whom you rule.

c. Since this takes a supernatural gift to serve, it means that Jesus must do a supernatural work and change your heart so that you will desire to serve his people. No one can love without looking to the cross. **So how then will a child of God rule?**

The Godly Rule by Servanthood - Declared

43 "Yet **it shall not be so among you**; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 "And **whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all**.

1. Jesus pointed out that the true leader would be a servant to the people under him; he would not seek for others to serve him.

2. What a contrast from the way non-believers rule; what a contrast this was from what John and James were asking!

James and John were thinking like the world. **Jesus wanted them to be ministers** 牧师 – slaves – but **they wanted to be Prime Ministers** 总理, with people putting honor on them and attending to their needs. But being a true minister required them to go through hardships for the people under their charge.

3. Lessons:

a. For sure, we need leaders in the home, church, and state, but it is how these leaders serve that is important. Leaders must consider the needs of the people under their charge and serve them. Being a servant leader means you will **do what it in the interest of those under you**. After all, you are leading them to Christ! And you are leading them in Christ.

b. In the home, fathers and mothers must be ready to be exhausted, working for, teaching, and disciplining your children. You do this even when you are tired, sick, or frustrated.

c. In the church, leaders must be willing to serve and not to use your positions to exact favors from God's people. You are to serve each one alike...not give more time to the ones you like more. People need encouragement and discipline 管教.

2 Corinthians 12:15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.

(This is nothing wrong in receiving honor, but **honor is the result...not the purpose of your work**.)

d. In the state, leaders are to carefully examine laws to make sure they are consistent with God's laws and then make sure they are carried out consistently-punishing the wicked and protecting the godly. As citizens, you are to make the job of the state easier by helping them. The Anabaptists 重洗派 declared that if the state were not submissive to God it was not to be honored. That is false doctrine.

e. So if you want to be a leader as a husband...as an elder...as a civil official...you must begin to think of service! Don't think about what you will get on earth. Your reward is waiting for you in heaven. Think about what you can do to build up the dominion of Christ your Redeemer (救赎主) .

The Godly rule by Servanthood -Demonstrated

45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

1. Jesus, the Son of Adam (Man), demonstrated by his life how true leaders were called to serve.

The 1st Adam failed to set a good example of service. He did not serve his wife. He did not serve his children. He served his pride.

2. Jesus the Son of Adam served his people well.

a. Jesus did not come demanding that others serve him. He did not demand a retinue follow him and announce how good and powerful he was. Rather, he set aside his own glory to serve his Bride.

Philippians 2:7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant 奴仆, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

b. Jesus did many works of service for his people. He ministered healing to the souls and bodies of men by preaching and healing.

Matthew 9:35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, **teaching in their synagogues** (公会), preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing every sickness** and every disease among the people. 36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, **like sheep having no shepherd.**

Even when he was tired and the people came looking to him for preaching and healing...he was ready to be “spent” for the Gospel.

c. Even when he needed help in the desert after he was tempted (被试探) by the Devil and was hungry, he called to heaven, not to men, for the angels to minister to him.

Matthew 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, **angels came and ministered to Him.**

d. Jesus washed his disciples' feet. And he pointed out that this was an example for them to follow.

John 13:5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 14 "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 "**For I have given you an example**, that you should do as I have done to you.

e. He called for help in the Garden of Gethsemane, got none, yet he went to the cross.

Matthew 26:38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." 39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." 40 Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

3. You see the perfect illustration of service on the cross when he gave his life as a ransom for many.

Ransom "lytron" means the "price of release." This usually refers for the price paid for the release of slaves. Of course this fact points to the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53, who brings freedom to the captives by being mortally wounded for their transgressions and being bruised in his soul for their iniquities.

These people from all parts of the world were previously enemies of him and his people.

4. Lessons:

a. Jesus was the substitutionary 代替性的 atonement 赎罪 for many sinners from around the world. There is no greater service of a leader than to give his life for others – particularly, to give his life for his enemies. This is the demonstrated example you must follow.

b. It doesn't matter what the people under your charge look like, what their weaknesses are, or whether they are rich or poor. Serve them. And though you might not have to give your life for them...you might have to give your free time, your energy, your ears, your wisdom!

Conclusion:

James and John wanted great positions in Christ's kingdom so their egos could be stroked and they could exert tyrannical rule over the people. Instead, Jesus pointed out that the great ruler (who would be rewarded greatly in heaven) was one who served the needs of the people so they could be effective in his kingdom.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. You must teach, love, discipline, and be ready to die for those under your charge.

This is what a great leader would do. You are not be in leadership for what you can get. You will get your reward later.

2. It doesn't matter if the people under you charge are not the best! It doesn't matter if they really like you, if they are from a different background, if they are pretty, or if treat you with respect. You are to serve their needs. (Of course serving their needs does not

mean you give them whatever they want. Serving them is to do what God says is best for them.)

3. Why would you do this? You would serve others **because your heart has been changed by Jesus**. Remember Isaiah 53:11 “He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities (罪孽) . 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession (代求) for the transgressors.” And you would do this **because you are following his example of sacrifice**.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, let me tell you with certainty: You will not get into his kingdom, let alone receive any rewards from him. To get into his kingdom, and the doors are wide open now, you need to ask him take away your rebellious heart, give you a new one, and adopt you as his child. Call, God will hear.