

Leaders That Serve

“The CODE” Series – Part 07

A 15 Minute Study Guide- Read Mark 10:35-45

1. What are the possible motivations that drive the request of James and John?
2. What does Jesus mean when He asked them if they are willing to “drink” and be “baptized”?
3. What are the differences that Jesus points out between “Worldly leadership” and “Kingdom of Heaven leadership”?
4. Name one person whom you know that exemplifies “servant leadership” and list one quality of that leadership that you wish to adopt and cultivate in your life:

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A Fuller Study Guide-

Connect question: Do you think it is necessary for a Christian to serve outside the church? Why or why not?

Introduction: One of the core values at GH Church is “servant leadership”. For many this term sounds like a paradox. Dictionaries define the word “paradox” in the following ways:

1. a seemingly contradictory or absurd statement that expresses a possible truth.
2. a person, thing, or situation, exhibiting an apparently contradictory nature.
3. an opinion or statement contrary to commonly accepted opinion.

In today’s culture, many hold the idea that if one is both a servant and a leader, it is contradictory, not acceptable, and if pursued will lead to leadership failure. Some of the appeal of the television show, “The Undercover Boss” was the unheard of concept that a CEO or owner of a big company would secretly step down from the corporate suite and join his/her minimum wage workers at their place of work. *“This can’t be happening: The “Big Boss” doesn’t serve French fries, ship boxes, or get their hands dirty.”*

Jesus turns this commonly held value about leadership UPSIDE DOWN. Leadership in God’s Kingdom starts first with having a servant’s heart and leading with that heart!

Mark 10:35-45

Mark 10:35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to Him. "Teacher," they said, "we want You to do us a favor."

Mark 10:36 "What is your request?" He asked.

Mark 10:37 They replied, "When You sit on Your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to You, one on Your right and the other on Your left."

Mark 10:38 But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?"

Mark 10:39 "Oh yes," they replied, "we are able!" Then Jesus told them, "You will indeed drink from My bitter cup and be baptized with My baptism of suffering."

Mark 10:40 But I have no right to say who will sit on My right or My left. God has prepared those places for the ones He has chosen."

Mark 10:41 When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant.

Mark 10:42 So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them.

Mark 10:43 But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant,

Mark 10:44 and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Discussion:

What do you suppose are the motives behind the "*favor*" that James and John requested of Jesus?

How do these motives contradict other Biblical principles?

What was the "*cup of suffering*" and the "*baptism*" that Jesus spoke of in verses 38-39?

Jesus stated that they would indeed share these experiences with Him. Does this truth apply to all of us or to a select few? If so, in what ways have you experienced aspects of the "*cup*" and "*baptism*"?

In this world's culture, what are the expectations of a successful leader?

In God's Kingdom, what are the expectations of a successful leader?

Give examples of how we can be "*slaves of everyone else*":

What aspect of servant leadership do you struggle with? How does the Bible address your struggle?

What is your favorite example of servant leadership in the life of Christ? Why?

Homework:

What steps do you need to take to become more of a servant leader?

Who has God put on your heart to serve this week or next? What will you do to both serve them and lead them?