

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Isaiah 53:4-12

Psalm 91:9-16

*You have made the Lord your refuge, & the Most High your habitation. (v9)*

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, & make us desire always & only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Mark 10: 35-45

<sup>35</sup>James & John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him & said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” <sup>36</sup>And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” <sup>37</sup>And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand & one at your left, in your glory.” <sup>38</sup>But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” <sup>39</sup>They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; & with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; <sup>40</sup>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.” <sup>41</sup>When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James & John. <sup>42</sup>So Jesus called them & said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, & their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>43</sup>But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup>and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup>For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, & to give his life a ransom for many.”

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Compare this episode to St. Matthew account (*Matthew 20:20-28*). What similarities & differences do you find? What do your study notes add? How is the episode enriched or confused by the differences in details?
2. What connections do you find with the Old Testament lesson? Hint: look for themes, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc.; don't overlook *Mark 10:45*.

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Dave Ramsey speaks of “servant leadership,” saying that the servant part comes first, prioritizing empowering & growing others.\* How can you implement this idea where you work or volunteer? Within your family? How can you check your motivations so that you're doing what's genuinely best for the team/crew, not what makes you look good in their eyes? See *Small Catechism: 10 Commandments*, available < [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org) > \*Read more at < [www.ramseysolutions.com/business/what-is-servant-leadership](http://www.ramseysolutions.com/business/what-is-servant-leadership) >
4. Jesus calls himself a “ransom,” a price paid to redeem a captive, a slave, an indentured servant, etc. What does this tell you about your spiritual status prior to & following conversion? Were you a free agent who chose Jesus? See *Romans 3:21-26, 6:20-23, 11:32; Galatians 3:22-29; SC: Creed II*

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. The disciples seek honor & power (v35), but Jesus promises suffering & humility (vv31-32, 38, 43-44). How does such country club thinking get in the way of real-life servant leadership, mercy, & mission in congregations? Where do you see such tendencies in your congregation? How can you be a servant leader & a crew member to get things on track?
6. The old offering prayer goes, “we offer ourselves to your service.” How is your offering an act of worship? How does your offering show God's worthiness in your life? How do others see this worship & service in your everyday life? Ask them & see if their answers match your perception.

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Serve

*Giving is not a competition, not an agenda to leverage.  
Giving is a service; an act of worship.*

-Notes-

**KEY VERSE:** But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, (v43)

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**-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-**

The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, & to give his life as a ransom for many. (*Mark 10:45*)

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