

Flourishing & You

Mark 10:35-45

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No matter how big or small your contribution might be, every Christian can make a positive difference in this world. The foundational heart attitude of a life-long agent of flourishing is servanthood.

3 keys about serving:

1. The Wrong Way to Serve

To this world, the idea of an individual as a servant is largely considered as negative. The disciples struggled with this issue and argued amongst themselves to see who might be the greatest. James and John had asked Jesus to grant them something He could do for them (v. 35), completely neglecting Jesus' imminent death. Very often, we approach God for what He can do for us and not what we can do to please Him as our Lord and Saviour. The wrong way to serve Jesus is to focus on what He can do for you rather than how you can serve Him. Jesus responded to James and John's request for status with remarkable humility, patience and kindness (vv. 36-37). Jesus was teaching that His glory does not come from power, wealth or status, but from suffering and death on the cross (v. 38). Greatness in God's kingdom is not marked by a position of power or honour. Greatness in God's Kingdom is marked by suffering, self-denial and carrying the cross. We will never experience true flourishing by looking inward. Jesus warns against getting drunk with power and misusing it (v. 42).

2. The Right Way to Serve

Greatness is not achieved through the power to be dominant and lead others into submission but by becoming a

servant and slave (vv. 43-44). Greatness is not achieved by ruling with great power but by serving with great humility. While some of us might feel that our talent is too small and contribution too insignificant, all God requires of us is to be a servant that follows and obeys His instructions and trusts in Him, unlike Phillip and like Andrew (John 6:8-9). As servants, let us remember to see things through the eyes of faith and trust Jesus to make something out of the possibilities of inadequate things. Never underestimate what you have to offer to Jesus. He will multiply your five loaves and two fish to do amazing things.

3. The Power to Serve

While very few people aspire to be a servant, everyone is a servant. The only question is which master you are serving. Whatever we choose to serve controls our motivation to serve. Any master that is not Jesus will always overpromise and underdeliver. If our motivation to serve is rooted in a Master who serves us, even to the point of death, everything changes (v. 45). The King of kings, the Prince of Heaven, and Son of God came not to be served, but to serve. Jesus is our Servant King who served us by giving His life as a ransom for our sins. All other masters are insatiable in their demand; in Jesus, He has paid all our demands in the form of a ransom. We can serve Him as we worship Him. Jesus is the only Master who is life-giving. He is the bread of life and the source of living water. Be a servant for the Lord and experience flourishing in your life. Let the gospel sustain us as we empty

ourselves for the service and
flourishing of others!