

Why did Jesus Come? To Serve

[Mark 10:35-45](#)

December 20, 2020



Introduction

The pursuit of value and significance looks different from one person to the next, but everyone wants their life to count. We want to be respected, appreciated, needed or liked by others. The value system of the world determines value through performance, competition, and comparison. Do you feel trapped by the “rat race”? Is there a different way to live and is it even possible to live a different way? How can we break free from the way the world operates to find peace, rest, and freedom? Jesus came to serve. He shows us a better way, the life of servitude. A life of counting others more significant than ourselves.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Count the cost ([10:35-41](#))
- II. Follow Jesus' path to greatness ([10:42-45](#))

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [10:35-41](#)

James and John snuck away from the other ten disciples in order to ask for a high seat in the kingdom of God. The world may celebrate their initiative, but the evil of self-centeredness is in complete contrast to Jesus who came to serve sinners like us. James and John's question is a sober warning for us as professing Christians: religion can often be mixed with a sinful self-interest. How can we know if we are guilty of this way of thinking? What if Jesus came to you and asked you “what do you want me to do for you” as He did for these two disciples? How would you answer that question?

Next, consider how their question affects the unity of the disciples. James and John's question left them *indignant*. If someone else gets praise and attention how does that make you feel? When we operate according to the world's value system, others are not people to love, serve and care for; they are obstacles to what we want (a symptom of living by the world's value system). What is Jesus' way? Jesus, the Son of Man, came not to be served, but to serve (v. [45](#)). Is that not amazing? Would others describe you in this way? Do you walk into a room and seek to serve rather than be served? Jesus came to serve us, but we are not always easy to serve. God is patient and He bears up with us when we are hard hearted.

Are you discouraged by a lack of growth you see in those you are raising or teaching? As teachers, parents, disciplers, or friends we should always labor to improve in our teaching and discipling, but we must remember that spiritual growth takes time and spiritual growth comes from God. Take some time this week to ask the Lord for His help in this Christian life. He is always willing to help His children. His invitation is the beginning of fellowship and communion with Him. We are called to count the cost.

2) Read [10:42-45](#)

Jesus does not denounce the pursuit of greatness, He redefines what greatness looks like. Greatness is us serving others. Trusting Jesus feels risky at first. Why should we take such a risk? The good news is that He's lived this life of servitude first, *for us*. Have you thought about this great humility that Jesus showed in His life recently? He had every right to be praised, but he laid down His rights out of love for us. The work of our redemption has been finished. It cost God His own Son that salvation could be free for us, that's grace!

When Jesus met Bartimaeus, the blind beggar (v [45](#)), Jesus asks the same question He asks James and John. In response, He asks for mercy, for healing, trusts in Christ and follows Him. He didn't take God's gift of healing for granted and walk away. He received God's gift and followed Jesus. Do you pick and choose which commands we like, or do we trust Jesus fully? We are called to lay down our rights and to inconvenience ourselves for the good of others. We do that not to earn points, but to serve because we've experienced the love of God in Christ. In Him we have everything we need. Praise God for that this morning. You are cared for. Your value is settled in Christ.

Additional Reading: [Matthew 7:12-13](#)

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Luke 19:1-10](#) "...To Seek and to Save the Lost"