

Seeking Greatness in the Kingdom

Discussion Questions for Mark 10:35-45

1. What issues do people often argue about?
2. In what way does society pressure us to seek status and power?
3. What was the relationship between James, John, and Jesus? (10:35)
4. With what attitude did James and John confront Jesus? (10:35)
5. What did James and John want from Jesus? (10:37)
6. What did James and John's request reflect about their character? (10:37)
7. How did Jesus answer James and John's request? (10:38–40)
8. What were the "baptism" and "cup" of which Jesus spoke? (10:38–39)
9. What figure of speech did Jesus use in speaking with James and John? (10:38–39)
10. How did Jesus explain to James and John the impossibility of granting what they had requested? (10:39–40)
11. Who will grant the seats to Christ's right and left in glory? (10:40)
12. How did the other disciples react to James and John's request? (10:41)
13. What did Jesus warn all His disciples about? (10:42–43)
14. What value did Jesus place on serving? (10:42–45)
15. What value did Jesus place on status? (10:42–45)
16. How did Jesus advise the disciples regarding greatness? (10:43–44)
17. What did Jesus mean when He said He "did not come to be served, but to serve"? (10:45)
18. Why was Jesus unwilling to do what James and John asked for?
19. Why were the other disciples angry at James and John?
20. What sort of unreasonable requests do we sometimes make of God? Why do we?

21. In what way does God protect us from our foolish requests?
22. In what ways do we vie for power and authority?
23. How does Jesus want us to handle power and authority?
24. How do Jesus' words to James and John change your attitude about power and authority?
25. How can you adopt Christ's example as your own?
26. How can you become a servant of others?
27. How do you need to change your attitude or actions in light of Jesus' words about serving?
28. Jesus, the Son of God, left us a perfect example of humility and service to others. What does this imply for us?
29. How should you respond to Jesus' giving His life as a ransom for you?
30. What specific act of service could you do this week for someone else?
31. What steps can you take to guard yourself against an attitude of selfishness or greed?