

Mark 10:32-45
The Servant Leader
September 7 2025

Homework: Read Hebrews 6:7-8 and Philippians 2:1-8.

- Think about *specific* ways these two passages are relevant to your practice of servant leadership.
- Set a S.M.A.R.T. goal to apply what you have learned (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time Sensitive).
- Shoot me a text (719-369-8585) or email (jhopkins@tristatechurch.com) and tell me something you are planning to do with what you have learned.

1. My experience in Mark

a. Viewed him through a lens of mediocrity

- i. He was young and foolish. He was probably the kid who showed up at the Garden of Gethsemane wrapped in a sheet and ended up running away naked.
- ii. He disappointed Paul (couldn't handle the rigors of the missionary journey).
- iii. His gospel is fast, furious, and shallow compared to the others:
 1. Matthew shows us Jesus in His majesty. Even when He suffers, we see the coming King.
 2. Luke gives us a carefully-researched, detailed account of the events of Jesus' life.
 3. John wrote with profound depth, revealing Jesus as "the Way, the Truth, and the Life".
 4. Mark, he's the lightweight to whom we direct seekers and new believers. Mark's gospel is the kiddie pool.

b. What I have learned. . .

- i. Mark's style best reflects Jesus' style.
- ii. Each section builds upon the previous one, mutually supporting one another.
- iii. Mark layered levels of meaning like Jesus did in the parables.

c. I owe Mark an apology!

2. Two sermons in one passage.

- a. I actually pulled out 13 separate sermons I could preach from this one passage.
Buckle up, folks! We should be done by 1:30.
 - b. Relax! I'm only going to preach two of them.
- 3. Sermon one: Mark 10:32-34 **Read and Pray**
 - a. Think back to last week.
 - i. What was the Rich Young Ruler's question? What must I do to inherit eternal life?
 - ii. What was Jesus' response (verse 21)? **Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."**
 - iii. This is the same message Jesus has been repeating throughout the book. Eternal life is found in serving as Jesus' apprentice.
 - iv. At the end of the section, vvs. 29-30, Jesus re-emphasized the value of the Gospel. What you lose when you follow Jesus pales in comparison to what you gain.
 - b. Paint the picture of Mark 10:32—the crowd and the disciples
 - c. The crowd is following Jesus because they want the "stuff" He offers, food, healing, and entertainment.
 - d. The disciples, those who chose to follow Him, are pulled aside to receive a detailed briefing about what is about to happen.
 - e. The question of the day: Are you a member of the crowd, following Jesus because, at some level, He makes you feel good? Or are a disciple, a man or woman who has chosen to forsake all to be Jesus' apprentice?
 - f. Today is the day to examine your heart and choose.
- 4. Sermon two: Mark 10:35-45 **Read and pray.**
- 5. James and John's idols were power and authority.
 - a. Mark 9:38: they tried to stop someone exercising power in Jesus' name without "proper" authorization.
 - b. Luke 9:51-56: they wanted to call down fire on a Samaritan city that refused Jesus access.
 - c. Mark 10:13-16: They pushed away children.
 - d. John 18:15-16: John clearly had connections in the upper reaches of the religious elites. He was known to the high priest.

- e. These arrogant clowns, beloved knuckleheads, just saw Jesus transformed *and* engaged in a conversation with Moses and Elijah, the two men most likely to be seated on Jesus' left and right. They weren't just trying to get ahead of their fellow disciples, they were trying to leapfrog the two greatest Jews of all time!
 - f. They were closest to Jesus.
- 6. Jesus' brilliance avoiding James and John's trap, then laying one of His own.
 - a. James & John's trap: "Give us what we want."
 - b. Jesus' dodge: "What do you want?" No commitment, but rather a clarifying question.
 - c. Jesus' trap: "Are you able to be baptized with the same baptism I am about to endure?"
 - d. Beloved Knuckleheads jump right in because all they see, despite what Jesus said mere moments before, is power and authority.
 - e. *Trapped!* Jesus tells them they will, in fact, endure the same baptism, but He cannot promise what is not His to grant.
- 7. The new definition of leadership: "Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant."
 - a. Other disciples were mad.
 - b. Jesus calls them all together to explain the new paradigm of leadership.
 - c. "For the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14 *again!*) did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
- 8. What does servant leadership look like?
 - a. What is a servant's job? To take on low value, low priority tasks to free up the master to focus on high value, high priority tasks. To assist the one served to make his or her garden thrive.
 - b. Application (Hebrews 13:17)
 - i. Hebrews 6:7-8 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.
 - ii. Philippians 2:1-8 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one

purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude [e]in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.