



Redefining Greatness

Mark 10:35-45: ³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.” ³⁶ “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. ³⁷ They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.”

Ego Takes.

Matthew 10:38-40: ³⁸ “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” ³⁹ “We can,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.”

Ego takes. Greatness gives.

Matthew 10:41: ⁴¹ When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John.

Matthew 10:42: ⁴² Jesus called them together...

Matthew 10:42: ...and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

Matthew 10:43-45: ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

What if the thing we most want — to matter, to lead, to be respected — actually requires us to stop taking and start giving?

Matthew 10:43: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.”

John Stott, “The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve.”

Notice it: How was that decision or action driven by ego?

Name it: “I am doing this because _____”

Replace it. “What would it look like to give, to follow the servant way of Jesus?”

All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.