



SERVE: THE SERVANTHOOD OF GOD

Mark 10:35-45 – The Way of Following Jesus is to be a servant of all.

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 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.”

Mark 10:43–45

God is a servant. – At the core of God, God is love, and his love is expressed in servanthood. God is a servant. Jesus came to be a servant. He came to show us the Father and to make a way to the father by serving us.

*“We preach **Christ crucified**: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, But to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength... But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong... so that no one may boast before him.”*

1 Corinthians 1:23–29

- The Jews expected a powerful, conquering Messiah / Christ
- The Gentiles prized wisdom, power, and logic. Gods were to be feared.
(Wisdom & Power doesn't co-exist with servants or “weakness”)

Christ Crucified - Isaiah 52:13-53:12 – God comes as a suffering servant

What looked like defeat was actually **God's victory over death**.

What seemed like weakness was **the power of sacrificial love** breaking the curse of sin.

The cross turns the world's understanding of wisdom and power **upside down and still does**.

Jesus served us, to meet our greatest need of forgiveness & redemption.

To the Jews: it was a scandal (the Messiah = victory & prosperity).

To the Gentiles: it was foolishness (God wouldn't die or serve people)

To our Culture? It is offensive, judgemental, intolerant, weak

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” 1 John 1:8

*“He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and **repentance for the forgiveness of sins** will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’” (Christ Crucified)*

Luke 24:26

“There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends”.

John 15:13

What if; The final destination of spiritual transformation into the character of Jesus isn't freedom from sin, but to become a servant like Him.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do us a favor.”

³⁶ “What is your request?” he asked.

³⁷ They replied, “When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.”

³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?”³⁹ “Oh yes,” they replied, “we are able!”

Then Jesus told them, “You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptized with my baptism of suffering.”⁴⁰ But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.”

⁴¹ When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. ⁴² So Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ⁴³ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:35-45

ISAIAH 53

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;

he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,

so he did not open his mouth. 8 By oppression[a] and judgment he was taken away.

Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living;

for the transgression of my people he was punished.[b] 9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,

and though the Lord makes[c] his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

11 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life[d] and be satisfied[e];

by his knowledge[f] my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,[g] and he will divide the spoils with the strong,[h] because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors .For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.