

**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."

**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."

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

**42** Jesus called them together 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.

**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." (NIV)

INTRO - I'm going to start a little differently today. I want to share something with you which worries me. It is difficult to do church work when people are so busy. Everybody is busy. Pastors, members, Christians, non-Christians. Is there anyone who is not busy? This causes me worry in regard to priorities - but that is another sermon. For this sermon, I want you to think that when people are busy, and then cannot serve, how does the church conduct business? How can we conduct business meetings and get people involved in the ownership of the ministry of a congregation if people are too busy? How can we hold choir practice, Bible study, board meetings, find volunteers to help those in need if people are too busy?

Let me share with you, therefore, thinking about how busy that people are, some experiences I have had lately.

A couple of weeks ago long-time member Rich Kelpie died. Do you know that I had, not one, but two people come to me and ask, 'Pastor, can we help with a reception for the family?' We have an Elder serving at St. John who has come to me a number of times and simply asked, 'Pastor, What can I do to help you? This happens in the middle of a busy life he leads. I had a person come and sit in my office about a month or so ago and ask, 'What can I do to help at church, to get involved?' In the middle of a busy schedule this person wants to give time! Do you know what these examples are, they are example of service.

I. The world is not that way. The normal way that people think is they want someone to serve them rather than serving those people.

A. If you read today's Gospel lesson you see that Jesus knew the STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE of the world.

1. **"You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.**

2. The normal order of things is to climb a ladder so that one can boss others around, according to Jesus, at least.

B. Unfortunately, that normal attitude of not wanting to give of myself for another works it's way into the lives of God's people as they deal with their sinful nature.

1. Look at James and John.

2. They told Jesus, **"we want you to do for us whatever we ask."** <sup>36</sup>  
**"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. <sup>37</sup> They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."**

C. I know we all fight this attitude.

1. We want to tell others what to do, rather than listening.

2. We want to choose spend our time on our interests, not helping.

3. We want to use our resources for us, not others.

II. But what about the people I mentioned above?

A. They acted with an attitude of service.

1. They actually acted in the way Jesus calls us.

2. **whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.**

B. I will be honest, service is not first an action, it is first an attitude.

1. Attitudes change when a person knows Jesus.

2. Changed attitudes change actions.

C. Did you hear Jesus, he not only called us to serve, He gave us THE ultimate example of service.

1. **whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> 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."**

2. I've told you we are looking this fall at the 'surprises' in Jesus'

ministry.

3. The disciples were surprised at Jesus' SERVANT attitude!

4. Jesus didn't just have the position to LORD it over his people, he IS THE LORD

A. Lord means ruler, it means boss.

B. So the Lord came and listened to the foolishness of others, he reached out to people caught in sin, he suffered for someone else's sin, he died for someone else's punishment.

III. When people know that they have not always served, or loved others, or worshiped God, and that they deserve punishment and death and hell, they are overwhelmed when they realize GOD SERVED THEM.

A. Christians Naturally want to serve in their new life, because Jesus has served them.

1. We have new members of our church today, people who are baptized.
2. Watch out, as you get to know Jesus, and grow in the servant love of Jesus for you, your lives and your attitudes are going to change.

B. Yes, the church, the local congregation is called to serve in the comunit, in the world, doing works of mercy and mission.

1. But, service is NOT just done in the church.
2. Christians from St. John will be asking, What can we do to make Palmer and Wasilla and Alaska better places to live?
3. What can we do for the Alaska Mission for Christ to help reach out with Jesus?
4. How DOES God want me to serve Him and others

CONCLUSION - Less than a month ago, on October 16, we had a funeral for Rich Kelpo. He died on Saturday, October 14. But, even though he had cancer and was on hospice, do you know where he sat in on October 8<sup>th</sup>. He sat in the sound booth. He helped adjust sound for our speakers. He gave of his time to help at church. He was always doing that. Do you know why? Was it his sunny personality? Rich could be grumpy at times. But, Rich knew Jesus, and Jesus changes lives. He served us, and those who know Jesus serve others.