

DEACONS ARE THE GREATEST

Mark 10:35-45 // December 19, 2021 AM

I. Our vision of greatness is one of domineering stardom (vv. 35-37, 41).

II. Christ's vision of greatness is one of suffering servanthood (vv. 38-40, 42-45).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. How does our culture view authority? What is Jesus' take on authority? Is it inherently evil and oppressive?
2. How do Jesus' predictions in 8:31, 9:31, and 10:33 serve as the backdrop of the bold request of James and John? What is this telling us?
3. What do James and John ask Jesus for? Are they the only ones who have this desire or do all the disciples share it? What might this desire look like in the church today?
4. How did the request of James and John reveal their faith? How did it reveal their folly?
5. How does Jesus' vision of greatness differ from that of the world? How does He Himself exemplify this greatness?
6. What does the word deacon mean? In what sense are all Christians called to be deacons and in what sense are only certain Christians called to be deacons?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. As I think about my prayer life, do my prayers reflect the self-interest and self-love of James and John or are they fueled by a passion for Christ's glory and the temporal and eternal good of others?
2. What are my motives for using my gifts in the church? Do I desire human applause? Do I desire the spotlight? How can my service itself be tainted with selfishness?
3. Why are the greatest those who serve? Does Jesus' view of greatness accord with the way I think as I look at the church and world? Or do I tend to operate according to a worldly paradigm of greatness?