

Paradox:
Serving is Leading
Mark 10:35-45

Introduction: (Choose 1)

1. In what way are you a leader or in a position of authority over someone?
2. Which disciples do you think were the greatest? (See list in Matthew 10:1-4)
 - Why do you think they were the greatest?

Reading: (Scripture Reference) Read Mark 10: 35-45

Understanding: (Choose 4-6)

1. What did James and John request of Jesus?
 - What were they expecting to happen soon?
 - What did Jesus know was soon to happen?
2. Describing the situation, but without naming names, give an example of someone you generally compare yourself to (someone you compete with for “success or greatness”).
3. Alan Redpath said, “The secret of every discord in Christian homes and communities and churches is that we seek our own way and our own glory.” Give examples of how *competition* and *domination* cause discord in these areas:
 - home
 - community
 - church
4. Look at Mark 10:43-45. What was Jesus’s radically different approach to success?
5. Pastor Dave said, “a leadership role...if you’re doing it well, comes with suffering: you’re criticized regularly, you feel the pressure of people’s expectations.” What are you suffering in your leadership role?
6. Read Colossians 1:24.
 - What did Paul say was the purpose of his suffering?
 - What was his reaction (emotion)?
7. Give an example of a time you served someone where you had to put their needs above your own, where you gave up your rights or convenience. Was the experience rewarding or not?
8. Read Acts 1:4-8. Jesus not only gave an example of the serving he was calling for from his disciples, but he also empowered them. Describe how you’ve experienced this empowerment when you needed it.

Application

9. Give specific examples of how you can change your leadership in the following:
 - Rethinking the purpose of your position
 - Showing genuine interest in others
 - Becoming a giver
10. How can our group pray for you in an area where you're competitive or dominating for the power of the Holy Spirit to enable you to serve others better?

Lectio Divina

1. **Opening Prayer:** Ask God for insight into His Word, for open hearts and minds, for hunger to know Him better, and for an attitude of learning from one another.
2. **Reading:** Have someone from your group read the passage aloud. It is best to print out a copy for each group member so they can read along, make notes, or go back as needed.
3. **Meditation:** Spend *an entire minute in complete silence*, contemplating what was just read. Feel free to re-read the passage quietly to yourself or jot down thoughts/highlight what stuck out to you.
4. **Sharing:** At the leader's signal, invite group members to share their insights for about 5 minutes.
5. **Repeat:**

After the 5 minutes are over, repeat the process 2 more times using the same passage. Listen/read like you haven't heard this passage before. If there are longer moments of silence, the leader can prompt discussion with the following questions:

1. What did you hear and what seems important?
2. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you?
3. What does it make you think of from your life?

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." Mark 10:42-45

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Phillipians 2:3-8