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# CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES

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NOVEMBER 16, 2025  
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

# I. SERMON RECAP

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In his sermon, Pastor Gary explored the profound statements of Jesus found in Mark 10:43-45, urging the congregation to reflect deeply on the essence of being a follower of Christ. He recounted the conversation between Jesus and the disciples, James and John, who sought positions of glory beside Jesus. This interaction served as a backdrop for Jesus' radical teaching that true greatness lies in servitude. Pastor Gary emphasized that as Christians, we are called to live distinctly from the worldly norms, where the hallmark of our lives should reflect Jesus' own example of servitude and sacrifice.

Pastor Gary challenged the congregation to embody the "not so with you" principle, which underscores that our lives, as followers of Christ, should be uncommon, marked by integrity, self-denial, and service to others. He highlighted that this distinct way of living does not exempt us from life's challenges or suffering; rather, it calls us to approach these challenges with a different mindset and motivation. The sermon underscored the importance of having a deeper well of spiritual sustenance and being a positive reflection of our spiritual family and the kingdom of God in our everyday interactions.

In conclusion, Pastor Gary called on the congregants to evaluate their lives against the self-sacrificial model of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. He urged the church to reject self-centered Christianity and to embrace a life of service and obedience to God's calling, even when it demands personal sacrifice or the surrendering of perceived rights. As he prepared the congregation to partake in communion, Pastor Gary emphasized the significance of approaching the holy table with the understanding that through Christ's broken body and shed blood, we find the grace and strength to live out this call to extraordinary servitude.

## Chapters

### Chapter 1: The Disciples' Request and Jesus' Response

We examine James and John's bold request to sit at Jesus' right and left in glory, and how Jesus responds by introducing the concept that His followers must be different from the world.

### Chapter 2: Living as Uncommon People in a Common World

We explore what it means to be 'not so with you' people—uncommon, filled with integrity, motivated differently, and distinguished by our citizenship in heaven rather than conforming to worldly patterns.

### Chapter 3: The Radical Call to Servanthood and Sacrifice

We confront the challenging truth that greatness in God's kingdom is defined by servanthood and slavery to others, requiring us to die to self and give up our rights for the benefit of others.

### Chapter 4: Deliverance by Purchase: Understanding Our Ransom

We reflect on Jesus' statement that He came to give His life as a ransom for many, understanding that our deliverance was purchased at the cost of His life—an inequivalent exchange

# II. STUDY GUIDE

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## Key Points

Christians should be distinguishably different from the culture around them, "not so with you"

Greatness in God's kingdom is defined by servitude, not status or position

Believers are called to be "slaves of all," living in obedience to Christ's commands

Christian life involves dying to self and sacrificing personal comfort for others' benefit

We should not approach faith primarily as a means of getting what we want from God

True provision comes when we serve and build the kingdom rather than constantly asking for personal needs

Christ's nature within us gives us the capacity to serve sacrificially

Ransom means "deliverance by purchase", we are freed through Christ's inequivalent sacrifice

Followers of Christ should have integrity, uncommon citizenship, and different motivations than the world

Ministry effectiveness is measured by whether people's lives are actually transformed over time

## Key Scripture

**Mark 10:43-45** Not so with you. Instead, 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."

**Jeremiah 23:29** "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

**Matthew 6:33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

## Other Relevant Scripture

**John 15:5** - "I am the vine; you are the branches. Apart from me, you can do nothing."

**Matthew 18:3** - "Unless you become like this little child"

**Matthew 5:44** - "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"

**Matthew 10:34** - "I didn't come to bring peace. I came to bring a sword."

**Matthew 20:16** - "The last shall be first" (parallel passage to Mark 10)

**John 17:14-16** - Being "in the world but not of it"

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** - "You are bought" - reference to being purchased/owned by God

**Hebrews 13:8** - "God is the same yesterday today, and forevermore"

**Isaiah 53:3** - "Man of sorrows acquainted with grief"

**Romans 12:2** - The concept of not being conformed to the world

**1 Peter 2:9** - Being set apart

**Philippians 3:20** - Citizenship in heaven

# III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

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## 5-Day Devotional: Not So With You

### Day 1: Uncommon Living

**Question:** When someone observes your life, what specific behaviors or attitudes would make them conclude 'not so with you', that you are distinguishable from the broader culture?

**Reading:** Mark 10:35-45

**Devotional:** "Not so with you." These words from Jesus challenge us to examine whether our lives are distinguishable from the world around us. James and John wanted positions of honor, but Jesus redirected them toward servant leadership. Today, ask yourself: What makes my life uncommon? Do people see Christ's character in how I conduct business, treat my family, or respond to disappointment?

The Christian life isn't about insulation from hardship but transformation through it. You possess an uncommon calling, citizenship in heaven that shapes earthly living. Your integrity, witness, and priorities should set you apart. Where has conformity crept into your walk? What one area can you surrender today to become more distinguishable as His?

## Day 2: The Cost of Discipleship

**Question:** How does the concept of being 'bought' and 'owned' by Christ as a slave challenge modern notions of personal freedom and individual rights in your faith journey?

**Reading:** Luke 9:23-26

**Devotional:** Jesus never promised comfort. He promised a cross. "Deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow me." This isn't prosperity gospel; it's sacrificial discipleship. The early disciples faced imprisonment, persecution, and martyrdom. While we may not face literal death, we're called to die to self-centeredness, entitlement, and the demand for instant gratification. Deliverance by purchase means Christ paid an inequivalent price for our freedom. His sinless life for our sinful ones. This reality should transform how we approach sacrifice.

What comfort are you clinging to that Christ is asking you to release? What expectation needs to die so His kingdom can advance through you? True greatness comes through servanthood, not status.

## Day 3: Servant Leadership

**Question:** What specific sacrifice or act of servanthood is God calling you to embrace that you've been avoiding because it doesn't benefit you directly?

**Reading:** Philippians 2:1-11

**Devotional:** Christ "made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant." This is the pattern for Christian leadership and living. Greatness in God's kingdom is measured by how we serve, not by titles or positions. Jesus washed feet, touched lepers, and ultimately gave His life. He didn't come to be served but to serve. This challenges our culture's obsession with self-promotion and personal rights. In your marriage, workplace, or community, where can you demonstrate servant leadership today? Who needs you to die to self on their behalf?

The nature of Christ within you equips you to serve sacrificially. You're not earning salvation, you're living out the character of the One who ransomed you. Let His servant heartbeat through yours.

## Day 4: Beyond the Prayer List

**Question:** How can you shift from asking God to meet your needs on your timetable to serving others and building the kingdom, trusting that He will supply what you truly need?

**Reading:** Matthew 6:25-34

**Devotional:** "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you." There's a profound shift from approaching God with endless requests to simply serving His purposes. While God invites our prayers, He promises provision for those building His kingdom. When your Christian life becomes primarily about asking for comfort, convenience, and answers on your timetable, you miss the deeper supply that comes through obedience. God doesn't send out an army He doesn't supply. The question isn't "What do I want God to give me?" but "What does God want to accomplish through me?"

When you serve, love, and sacrifice for others' freedom, your needs are met in the process. What would change if your morning prayer shifted from requests to availability?

## Day 5: The Holy Table

**Question:** In what ways might comfort, convenience, and entitlement be preventing you from experiencing the deeper, cooler water that comes from a more profound relationship with Christ?

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

**Devotional:** The communion table is uncommon, holy, and unchanging, a reminder of deliverance by purchase. Christ's broken body and shed blood represent an inequivalent exchange: His perfection for our sin. This table exists for remembrance, to ground us in the ransom itself when our feelings fluctuate and circumstances overwhelm.

Your needs may differ each time you approach, but what you truly need remains constant: His sacrifice. As you reflect on taking communion, remember you are bought, owned, and ransomed. This isn't depressing; it's liberating. You belong to the One who loved you enough to die for you. Let this truth shape how you live this week, not seeking to be served, but serving others as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.



# IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

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## Small Group Discussion Guide: "Not So With You"

### Opening Prayer

### Icebreaker

**Question:** Think of a time when someone's lifestyle or behavior immediately identified them as different from everyone around them. What made them stand out?

### Key Scripture

Mark 10:43-45

### Discussion Questions

#### 1. The "Not So With You" Challenge

- What does the phrase "not so with you" mean in practical terms for followers of Christ today?
- In what specific ways should Christians be distinguishable from the culture around them?

**Personal reflection:** When people observe your life, what would they say is different about you? What would you want them to say?

#### 2. James and John's Request

- Why do you think James and John felt comfortable asking Jesus for positions of honor?
- How is their request similar to prayers or expectations we might have today?

- What does Jesus's response teach us about His priorities versus our natural desires?

### 3. The Servant-Slave Paradox

- The pastor mentioned that "greatness is determined by servitude." How does this contradict our culture's definition of greatness?
- Why do you think Jesus used the strong language of being a "slave" rather than just a "helper" or "volunteer"?
- What's the difference between serving when it's convenient and serving with a slave's commitment?

### 4. Expectations vs. Reality

- The sermon contrasted two approaches to Christianity:
  - **Approach A:** God exists to give us what we ask for
  - **Approach B:** We exist to serve God's purposes, even at personal cost
- Which approach more accurately describes your current relationship with God? Be honest.

### 5. The Dead Cat in the Water Tower

- The pastor shared a story about uncomfortable mission work in Jamaica. When have you had to "put on your big boy/girl pants" and serve despite discomfort or inconvenience?
- What does it look like to serve when you don't get what you think you deserve or are entitled to?

### 6. Dying to Self

- The sermon mentioned "dying to self" multiple times. What does this actually mean in daily life?

**Specific application:** What is one area where God might be asking you to "die to self" right now?

- In your marriage or family relationships?
- In your workplace?
- In your finances or time management?
- In your comfort zone?

## 7. Ransom and Purchase

- Jesus gave His life as a "ransom"—a deliverance by purchase. How does understanding that you were "bought" change your perspective on how you live?
- If we truly believed we were purchased and owned by Christ, how would that affect our daily decisions?

## Key Takeaways

1. **We are called to be uncommon** - Our lives should be noticeably different from the world around us in integrity, priorities, and motivation.
2. **Greatness = Servanthood** - In God's kingdom, the pathway to greatness runs through humble service to others.
3. **We are not our own** - As followers of Christ, we've been purchased and belong to Him, which means we're at His disposal, not our own.
4. **Instant gratification doesn't apply** - We won't always get what we want when we want it. God's timetable differs from ours.
5. **Serving supplies our needs** - Rather than constantly asking God for things, when we serve and build His kingdom, He supplies what we truly need (Matthew 6:33).

## Practical Applications

### Individual Reflection

Take 5 minutes of silence for each person to answer these questions privately:

1. What is one specific "not so with you" characteristic that should be more evident in my life?
2. Where am I living more like "Approach A" (asking God to serve me) than "Approach B" (serving God's purposes)?

3. What is one sacrifice God might be asking me to make for someone else's benefit?

## Group Commitments

Choose ONE of the following to commit to this week:

### Option 1: The Servant Challenge

- Identify someone in your life whose needs you could meet at personal cost (time, money, comfort)
- Serve them this week without telling them why or expecting recognition
- Report back to the group next week

### Option 2: The Expectation Inventory

- Make a list of expectations you have of God, your spouse, your church, your job, etc.
- Prayerfully ask God which expectations you need to surrender
- Practice saying, "Not so with me—I'm here to serve, not to be served"

### Option 3: The Integrity Check

- Ask a trusted friend or family member: "What's one way my life should be more noticeably different as a follower of Christ?"
- Don't defend yourself—just listen
- Take one concrete step to address what they share

### Option 4: The Marriage Application (for married couples)

- Husbands: Ask your wife, "What's one specific way I could give myself up for you this week?" Then do it.
- Wives: Consider one way you could sacrificially serve your husband without being asked.

## Accountability Questions for Next Week

1. Did you complete your chosen practical application?
2. What did you learn about yourself in the process?
3. How did dying to self in this small way affect your relationship with God?
4. What was harder than you expected? What was more rewarding?

## Closing Reflection

The pastor asked these questions, discuss together:

- Are people's lives in this group different today than they were a year ago as a result of following Christ?
- Do we have a "deeper well" and "cooler water" in our spiritual lives?
- When someone looks at us, can they conclude "not so with them"?

**Final Question:** If Jesus were sitting in this room right now and said to you personally, "Not so with you," what would He be referring to? What would He want to be different about your life?

## Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- Thank God for the ransom He paid through Jesus
- Ask for strength to live as servants and slaves to His purposes
- Confess areas where we've been self-focused rather than service-focused
- Request courage to be distinguishable from the culture around us
- Commit to supporting each other in living out "not so with you"

## For Further Study

- **Matthew 20:20-28** - Another account of James and John's request
- **Philippians 2:1-11** - Christ's example of servanthood
- **John 13:1-17** - Jesus washes the disciples' feet
- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** - You were bought at a price
- **Galatians 2:20** - I have been crucified with Christ

## Leader Notes

- **Be vulnerable:** As the leader, be willing to share your own struggles with dying to self and serving sacrificially
- **Avoid judgment:** Some group members may be convicted by this message, create a safe space for honest confession
- **Watch the time:** The discussion questions could take much longer than allocated. Prioritize questions 3, 6, and 7 if you need to skip some
- **Follow up:** Check in with group members mid-week about their practical applications
- **Remember grace:** This is a challenging message; balance the call to servanthood with the reminder of God's grace and empowerment