



Mark 10:32-45 | Authorized to Serve

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Have you ever asked:

YOU CALLED ME WHAT???

I remember a time in seventh grade when because me and my brothers were picked up on the bus from our home in a trailer park some fellow-students thought it fitting to call me “trailer trash.”

We moved around a lot, so I tried to fit in with them anyway, and so then they would call me “poser.”

“I wasn’t one of them, so I should just stop trying!”

Well, in my attempt to earn their favor, one time I responded to one of those sort of labels with: “Your momma!”

I thought, “I got them now. What are they going to say to that!”

And as you would expect, that only earned more scoffing and slander.

While the hurtful words they used to label me in seventh grade weren’t true, the humbling words Jesus uses in our text to describe all His followers is!

Not only is it true, but Jesus gloriously wears the label Himself and tells us that to follow Him we will gladly do so too.

We are nearing the end of Mark’s description by the Spirit of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

First, we were compelled to see Jesus as the authoritative Messiah and Son of God.

Then, we have been confronted to trust Jesus with His mission of the cross.

Soon, we will begin the journey Jesus takes to and through the cross.

In chapters 8-10, we have been called over and over again to follow Jesus in His humble, selfless service. We have been given a description of what it means to belong to God's Kingdom, be born again, and be disciples of Jesus:

- Deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow.
- Lose our life for Christ and the gospel.
- Humbly receive people who are different than us and not from our circle.
- Cut off anything that hinders us from following Jesus.
- Obey God with our marriage, and serve our spouse.
- Keep coming to God as a needy child.
- Give up and leave everything we are and “own” for Jesus and the gospel.
- And now, use any authority God has given us to serve others as a slave of all.

And it is probably that last description that escalates beyond what they and we think to be reasonable—consider yourself to be owned as a slave of all (v44, doulos).

Mark 10:44

⁴⁴ And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

“servant”=doulos: slave.

Really? What about individual freedom and expression?

Didn't Jesus know about the U.S. Constitution? Isn't every person created equal and given certain unalienable rights from God?

We wouldn't take this sort of demand from anyone else!

We would consider it tyranny for a government leader, or any leader, to demand that we submit ourselves as slaves to others.

But that is exactly what Jesus does! Jesus says that His followers who desire to be important and prominent will be servants and slaves of all.

The Kingdom of God is full of servants—even the King!

What gives Jesus the authority to make such a declaration?

Well, the Spirit through Mark has already made that case: *Jesus is the promised Messiah and Son of God.*

Mark 1:1

THE beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

- He speaks with authority as though He is the One Who gave the Torah.
- He casts out demons, heals the sick, walks on water, raises the dead, commands the weather, and multiplies matter!
- He forgives sins!

Jesus speaks and acts with the very authority of God because He *is* God and is in perfect fellowship with the Father and Spirit.

So Jesus certainly has the authority, but why and how would we follow Jesus into such an expectation of being a slave to others?

Because Jesus leads the way in His service and substitutionary sacrifice for many.

God in Christ doesn't just *tell* us to serve as slaves, He *gave Himself as one* in obedience to the Father.

Jesus uses His authority to serve and save by the gospel.

This is the good news! God in Christ redeems through death and rules through resurrection!

To follow Jesus means that we *also* use whatever authority we have to serve others in the gospel now.

Main Argument: Following Christ means to lovingly give ourselves in service to others as God in Christ has done for us.

So, that is where we are headed this morning.

Are you ready to be further challenged to serve others as though you exist for their good and God's glory?

Let's see. We'll start with seeing where the disciples are at in this instruction.

Remember, they have already been told by Jesus that they are to be servants of all.

But the question is... are they getting it?

WE'RE GOING WHERE??? (v32-34)

That's a question that may come to your mind often while following Jesus. "Where He leads, I will follow," but that doesn't mean I won't be surprised sometimes along the way.

Our text begins...

Mark 10:32

³² And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,

The disciples here included more than the twelve. Mark tells us that they were amazed and afraid.

In connection with everything we have read so far in Mark's gospel, we are made to understand that this amazement and fear comes from a mixture of expectations in regards to Jerusalem.

Though the disciples have not yet believed or understood Jesus's passion predictions, they do believe He is the promised Messiah.

This means that they expect His purpose of going to Jerusalem to be that of taking His throne.

They are just a rag-tag team who have no capability of challenging the Roman Empire. They must think:

- *Is Jesus really ready to take His throne?*
- *Will there be Exodus-like plagues?*

- *Will there be armies of angels?*
- *What are we getting ourselves into?*

Throughout Jesus’s ministry so far, Jerusalem has been sending enemy attacks at Him.

Now, Jesus is fearlessly leading His disciples up over 3,000 feet of elevation and 20 miles from Jericho right into the hands of the enemies in Jerusalem.

And in the minds of His followers, Jesus is now set on claiming His throne.

And He is! *Just not the way they think He is.*

And the disciples who had just claimed to leave all and follow Jesus are now amazed and afraid of following Jesus into Jerusalem.

But not Jesus!

Jesus is setting His face like a flint as the Servant of the LORD in [Isaiah 50!](#)

Jesus knows that His Father will help Him.

Jesus will not be put to shame by obeying the Father .

Jesus has been authorized to serve, and He is leading the way!

And He does so teaching.

So, Jesus pulls in the twelve from among the other disciples in order to tell them once again of His mission—the mission of the Servant of the LORD.

Let’s first see the verses in [Isaiah 50](#) that show what the Servant of the LORD was determined to do.

[Isaiah 50:5-7](#)

Isaiah 50:5-7

⁵ The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, And I was not rebellious, Neither turned away back. ⁶ I gave my back to the smiters, And my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. ⁷ For the Lord GOD will help me; Therefore shall I not be confounded: Therefore have I set my face like a flint, And I know that I shall not be ashamed.

In obedience to the Father, Jesus has set His face to Jerusalem to willingly give Himself into the hands of sinners.

Mark 10:33-34

³³ *Saying*, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: ³⁴ And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

Not exactly building an army to defeat Rome!

This is the third time that Jesus has predicted elements of this plan that the NT commonly calls “the cross,” but now for the first time in Mark, Jesus shares the reason for the plan... in verse 45.

We will get there again at the end today.

But know this: the death and resurrection of Jesus *is* in fact Jesus claiming His throne!

The enemies Jesus is going to defeat are darker and more powerful than the rulers of Rome or the false teachers of Jerusalem.

Jesus is going to Jerusalem to defeat Satan’s grip on humanity.

He will satisfy the good, just wrath of God against our sin and remove Satan’s ability to condemn those who turn with faith in Jesus.

Taking the throne as the God-man meant going right into the hands of the enemy.

The disciples were amazed and afraid of where Jesus was leading them.

Following Jesus can be frightening, though it shouldn’t be.

Q: Have you ever been afraid to obey God and follow Jesus?

What’s the root of this? Unbelief.

What's the root of that? Pride.

When we think too much of ourselves and too little of God, we fear obeying Jesus's mission for us.

And instead, we ask for a different mission...

DRESSED-UP PRIDE (v41, 35-37)

Have you ever been on a team at work or in sports in which a member tried to cover his ambition?

It was obvious he was trying to step on others to get to the top, but he tried to butter up the leaders and make it look like he was a team player.

Most figure it out pretty soon, and it has great potential of cultivating disunity among the team.

This very thing occurs within Jesus's team of disciples. Verse 41...

Mark 10:41

⁴¹ And when the ten heard *it*, they began to be much displeased with James and John.

What was it that the other ten disciples were so bothered about?

Why were they indignant against James and John?

Because James and John *wanted what they wanted*, but James and John were taking open action to get it, utilizing family relations and all.

Verse 35...

Mark 10:35-37

³⁵ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire. ³⁶ And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? ³⁷ They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.

The disciples display here the same pride as the rest of the world... but, worse, with Jesus's name put on it... "in thy glory."

Matthew makes known that their mother was involved with this request. Their mother was related to Jesus's mother, Mary.

James and John were open with their ambition, but they tried to make it sound noble.

We expect the world to be open with their pride.

As we all know, our society has wickedly and confusingly seen fit to label this entire month "Pride" month.

How ironic that sinners brand themselves so truthfully—pride. To boastfully go against the plain way God has created and commanded us is a flagrant, condemning display of pride.

Even worse is when so-called churches reveal their unregenerate leadership by endorsing such deceitful "suppression of truth" and rebellion towards God.

Yet, the truth is seen more distinct from lies when the world and false teachers show their true colors—literally.

But followers of Christ tend to dress-up our pride *in a different way*.

- We communicate our selfish ambitions as being for: "God's glory" or "being a kingdom-builder."
- We preface prideful slander of others with: "Bless their heart..."
- We proudly refuse to turn from sin with: "Jesus paid it all..."
- We covet what other people have with: "Would you pray that I get..."
- We unjustly push others down with: "God is raising me up."

It's not that there is anything wrong with initiative or diligence. Those qualities are commended in Scripture!

No, it's when the true motive of the heart is selfish ambition that gets us in trouble and might even reveal an unregenerate heart.

The disciples were divided about who would be over whom in the kingdom of God, but they tried to make their pride appear related to the glory of Christ.

The sin that characterizes those who follow their own way still lingers and shows itself in the hearts of those who follow Jesus.

We too often just try to “dress it up.”

But trying to dress up or “Christianize” such sin only adds sin upon sin!

Such “Christianized” sin brings shame to the name of Jesus and division to His church.

Look what division and pride surrounds Jesus in His disciples:

Two boldly ask for higher privilege, and all the others get angry because James and John are trying to exalt themselves over them—first!

Jesus tells them of what He is about to give for them, and they add to His burden by only thinking of themselves and of what power and authority they can gain.

They don’t care about Jesus’s glory or the purpose for His sacrifice.

They just lust to get from Jesus what they want.

They are dressing up their pride and in doing so not *truly* following Jesus.

Q: What prideful sin do you try to “beautify”?

I could get myself in trouble with this illustration, but at least I might get some grace on Father’s Day.

This illustrates well what we are doing when we try to “Christianize” pride.

The main one who is fooled is the one who thinks no one else sees through it.

Jesus addresses their pride by pointing to followers of Satan.

WORLDLY DOMINATORS (v42)

God never commissioned us to dominate, jockey, or lord over one another.

The same word used in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible for “subdue” in [Genesis 1:28](#) is used here in [Mark 10:42](#) for “exercise lordship.” We will see that verse in a moment.

For Reference: [Genesis 1:28](#)

In Genesis, humans were commanded to subjugate creation and the animals (not humans!) under their rule as they represented God’s rule *over them*.

Since the fall, our sinful hearts have filled us with a desire to instead *subjugate humans* and rebel against God’s rule.

Our world has done their own “dressing up” of sin.

The world’s anti-God teaching has re-classified humanity to a mere “species” of animal, and this teaching alone has been used to justify all sorts of racism, discrimination, and subjugation of other people.

Why not? If we can lord over animals and if humans are just animals... why not?

It makes it easier to treat a baby in the womb as a mere mass of cells and the human population as the greatest threat to our world when we view humans as animals not made in the image of God and under His good rule.

God addressed this sort of ungodly lording over others when He gave the Mosaic Law. If you care to read some of the instruction against it, I have given you a few verses in the bulletin.

For Reference: [Exodus 22:21-22](#); [Leviticus 25:43](#); [Deuteronomy 24:14](#)

Sins of abuse and human domination have flowed from the hearts of men and women from the first sin in the Garden to the first coming of Christ and until now.

Notice how Jesus describes this way of the world in verse 42...

Mark 10:42

But Jesus called them *to him*, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.

The worldly mindset of domineering over other humans goes against both Christianity and the Creation order.

It says, “I am lord over you.”

That’s what ungodly use of status, power, and authority says.

Authority is a gift God gave us in our innocence, but the abuse of authority started after the first humans sought out to “be as gods” according to the message of the chief of dominators—Satan.

Since then, exercising power over one another has been the way of the kingdoms of men. In Peter Green’s book on Alexander the Great, he writes:

Exploring the Gospel of Mark: An Expository Commentary C. Practical Wisdom (10:32–52)

The dying Alexander, the great Greek conqueror, was asked by his closest collaborators about his will. How was he going to dispose of his vast empire? His closest followers gathered closer. “To whom do you bequeath your kingdom?” they asked him, eager to learn who would inherit the coveted prize.

“To the strongest,” he said. His dying words were a prophecy: “I see a great funeral contest over me,” he said, then he closed his eyes forever.[3]

Source: Peter Green, *Alexander the Great* (New York: Praeger, 1970), 259

The abuse and misuse of authority stems from prideful worship of ourselves.

This is the way of the world, Jesus says.

The Romans served as a stark example of all sinful abuse and misuse of power.

Even if we begin with some applaudable motive, without worshiping God as Lord, we are sure to harm others with the power we acquire instead of serve them.

This is ungodly. God does not do this.

Our country’s founding fathers at least knew this pattern of proud humanity, and that is largely why they structured our government as a constitutional, democratic republic. Checks and balances for sinful, prideful hearts!

Q: In what ways have you seen the connection between pride and abuse in society... in you?

Jesus is not condemning the *good* use of authority.

He uses His authority right here in teaching His disciples!

Jesus is condemning the use of status and power for selfish gain and exaltation.

This problem is not new among the community of God. The disobedient leaders of Israel were commonly corrected for such prideful use of their authority in [Ezekiel 34...](#)

[Ezekiel 34:2-7](#)

Ezekiel 34:2-7

² Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe *be* to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

³ Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: *but* ye feed not the flock.

⁴ The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up *that which was* broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

⁵ And they were scattered, because *there is* no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.

⁶ My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek *after them*.

⁷ Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

Jesus the Good Shepherd is teaching and showing His disciples how to lead... and shepherd by serving.

Jesus had just done this twice when He fed the multitudes.

God does not rule for what He can get. God gives through His rule.

Even the glory that God both deserves and demands is for *our good*.

When we fail to recognize God as the only One to be worshiped, it does us harm and earns God's just judgment.

The Most High God gives through His rule.

In other words, God is love, and He abundantly gives from His power and authority.

And by making us followers of Christ, God makes us to exercise authority like Him: *through lovingly giving*.

We are to serve as God in Christ served us. We are to be:

OTHER-WORDLY DEACONS (v43-44)

God's kingdom is not of this world, and neither are His servants.

Those who are born from above use their authority from above to lovingly give and serve, and so Jesus warns...

Mark 10:43-44

⁴³ But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: ⁴⁴ And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

The way of Christ-followers is one of both a diakonos (servant in verse 43) and a doulos (slave in verse 44).

Instead of getting ahead by climbing over others, Christ's servants crawl down under in order to lift up others.

We trust God's purpose, plan, and providence.

- If I have a bad boss, I serve him like Daniel until God makes it clear as I seek Him that I am to serve someone else.

- If God places me into a church, I serve the interests and discipleship of others over my own.
- If God gives me a neighbor who treats me wrong, I prayerfully seek ways to serve him or her for Christ's sake.
- If God grants me greater authority and influence in society, work, church, or anywhere, God is giving me an opportunity to represent God's kingdom by using my authority to serve and build up others.

This might lead us to ask, “If I don’t look out for me, who will?”

Great question! Who do you think?

That’s not really the right question. The right question is: *Do I trust God to do me good while I serve others like He said?*

Living as a servant of all makes us vulnerable—like a child.

Right where Jesus wants us. Isn’t that what He said—come as a child?

God’s Spirit creates within us a heart that gives like God and trust’s Christ’s rule.

Now that God has come in Christ and given believers His very Spirit, we have no excuse to “lord over” one another.

If I do, I must wonder, “Am I truly born from above?”

Jesus’s church is to be characterized by loving service toward one another and our neighbors.

This is not a recommendation... just like it wasn’t just a recommendation for the rich young ruler to give away his possessions.

Serving as a slave to all is a necessary evidence of being born from above in the kingdom of God.

As should be expected, the true disciples are later seen as “getting” and living this teaching. Peter would later instruct pastors to selflessly serve the church and not “lord over them.” After Paul’s conversion, he became a servant of all for Jesus’s sake.

For Reference: [1 Peter 5:2-3](#); [2 Corinthians 4:5](#)

Q: Does the way you use your influence reveal that you are born from above?

This is the crux of it. Are you born again, and does the way you use your power, authority, and status testify of it?

Like Jesus has been teaching:

- Does the way you treat people that are different from you and outside your circle testify to your citizenship in the Kingdom?
- Does the way you sacrifice to “have peace among yourselves” testify to it?
- How about how you treat your spouse and honor God in marriage?
- What about how you receive children and “the least”?
- Does your stewardship of possessions declare that you are in the Kingdom?
- Does your service to other people in this room make known that you are a follower of Christ?

Do I use what power I have to give like God, or do I constantly grasp for more power for myself like Satan?

Now that we have received the main application, let's next glory in the beauty of what Jesus accomplishes by giving Himself.

WONDEROUS DESTINATION (v45)

The destination of Christians is far less about a place and far more about a Person—Christ. Notice Jesus's reasoning for our own service:

Mark 10:45

⁴⁵ For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

God came in Christ to **ransom** us from our sin and condemnation and to unite us with Himself.

Christ came to make us live... in Him... with Him... and like Him.

In doing so, Jesus paid the debt of sin we justly owed to God. Jesus willingly gave Himself in obedience to the Father in order to ransom us from the His judgment.

This is Jesus's clear way of saying that He is fulfilling the promised offering of Isaiah's Servant of the LORD and making the propitiatory, or satisfactory atonement for sin like more NT writings eventually expound on.

The passages of Isaiah and 1 John that I have given in the bulletin are specifically related both linguistically and contextually to Jesus's statement of Himself here.

For Reference: [Isaiah 53:10-11](#); [1 John 2:2](#); [Colossians 1:12-14](#)

All who turn from sin with faith in Jesus are forgiven of sin, redeemed, justified before God, and adopted into the kingdom of His beloved Son.

If this is true of us, it will be revealed as we lovingly give ourselves in service to the good of others and glory of God.

All who are transferred into the Kingdom live more and more according to the Kingdom.

If you have been ransomed, you too will serve others.

What exactly does Christ-like service look like for us?

Well to answer that, let's go back into what we skipped.

While correcting His disciples, Jesus assured them that they would *share in His suffering*.

SHARED SUFFERING (v38-39)

That's where Jesus goes with His disciples in verses 38-39.

Mark 10:38-39

³⁸ But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? ³⁹ And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:

First, Jesus asks if they can drink of His cup and be immersed in His immersion, or baptism.

His question suggests that they can't, but they presumptuously state they can.

So, Jesus assures them where their presumption is correct.

Before we go there, we must understand where they are wrong.

While the disciples could, should, and would participate in Jesus's sufferings, they could not actually drink of His cup and fulfill His baptism.

The reason is that His cup was to be the innocent One Who would bear the wrath of God for our sin, and His baptism was to identify with message of John the Baptist, being immersed in suffering for the sake of repentant sinners.

[Jeremiah 49:12](#) is a good example you can read for how "the cup" was commonly used in Hebrew writing as a reference to the judgment and wrath of God.

For Reference: [Jeremiah 49:12](#)

While the disciples could not fulfill "the cup," they and all who follow Jesus are in fact brought in to share in the sufferings of Christ for the sake of all His ransomed people.

Christian service is expected to include sacrifice for the sake of others.

There is nothing that more clearly displays the love of God in Christ.

As I said in the introduction:

God in Christ redeems through death and rules through resurrection! If we are to share in His glory, we must share in His suffering.

In the kingdom of God, there is no other way to greatness and glory.

The way of the cross is the way to the throne.

The way of the servant slave is the way of the King.

As you may have heard said:

“This is the way.”

The Scriptures I have given in the bulletin from Acts, Revelation, and 1 Peter make clear that James and John (and Peter) all learned what it meant to share in the sufferings of Jesus for the sake of serving others in the gospel.

For Reference: [Acts 12:2](#); [Revelation 1:9](#); [1 Peter 4:13](#)

But just like Jesus’s words, suffering was not the end for them or any of Christ’s followers. Our end is...

SHARED GLORY (v40)

All Christ’s followers are also promised to rule with Him—as His humble, exalted servants.

While God does not presently disclose all of what that looks like and how people are given honor and places of service in the future Kingdom, we do trust it to be true and worthy of our suffering.

Jesus says in verse 40...

Mark 10:40

⁴⁰ But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but *it shall be given to them* for whom it is prepared.

Jesus teaches His disciples to trust honor and exaltation to God and in faith to serve now.

Christians don't exalt ourselves. That is not our motivation.

Even in the workplace, we represent Jesus in this manner.

Humble service becomes who we are, not just something we occasionally do depending on the context.

But according to God's right-side-up Kingdom, humble service ends in exaltation. Even if exaltation is not experienced now in the present, it will come.

Sometimes, measures of exaltation come now from humble service.

It may be an exaltation of the team you are on, the mission you are pushing forward, or God's gospel you are living for. Exaltation is sometimes experienced now—in measure.

However, the one who follows Jesus by faith does not have to experience glory and exaltation now to believe His word.

We just keep representing Jesus and His servant-way while we hope in His promise to rule with Him.

Isn't that what it means to abide with faith in Jesus?

Joseph was not exalted overnight.

Daniel did not become God's voice to the most powerful kings in a day, and it certainly was not all glory.

Even Jesus served around three years largely in rejection before He was risen and highly exalted.

Sharing in Christ's sufferings is first!

But the resurrection and exaltation in glory does follow for those who are truly repenting, believing followers of Jesus Christ.

Q: Are you a ransomed servant of Jesus?

If so, expect suffering for the sake of the gospel and others.

And trust the shared glory to far out way our sufferings.

Serving Jesus is glorious...

GLORIOUS SERVICE

James and John desired glory now and suffering never.

They are like all of us—naturally.

But praise God for the transforming work of His Spirit to make us more and more like Christ.

While my seventh-grade piers had no good reason to label me the way they did, Jesus has wonderfully good reason to describe His followers as servant-slaves.

That's what He came to be for us.

That's what we are to be for the world.

Can you imagine what the world would be like if everyone was born again and saw themselves as servants of all?

One day, it will be like that.

Until then, it is our duty and privilege to live as other-worldly deacons among worldly dominators.

Is that what you desire of God?

One of the Christian's chief desires should be to grow more and more in giving ourselves to serve others according to God's love for us in Christ.

Following Christ means to lovingly give ourselves in service to others as God in Christ has done for us.

Christians serve through suffering like Christ as we await our promised shared glory in Christ.

Christians represent Jesus by using our status to serve—not to be served.

Don't try to dress up pride.

Obey Jesus. Use your influence and power to serve others and doo them good.

John eventually learned Jesus’s teaching and followed His example.

We can see that in 1 John, from which we will conclude.

[1 John 2:2; 3:16](#)

1 John 2:2

² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

1 John 3:16

¹⁶ Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

I have argued from our text that...

Main Argument: Following Christ means to lovingly give ourselves in service to others as God in Christ has done for us.

Church, let’s consider our authority, status, and power—however much we have—as being authorized to serve.

Please join me in prayer.