

Week Three

SERVING

“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 10:45

- Read Mark 10:35-45
as a household

James and John come to Jesus and have a bold request.

They ask, “We want you to do whatever we want.”

Can you imagine saying this to Jesus? But they do and

Jesus lets them keep talking. They say, “When we get to

heaven can we sit at you right and left?” Their request

exposed their heart. They wanted everyone to know

how important they were. They wanted the recognition,

the reward, the status. Maybe James and John weren’t

expecting it but they really ticked off the other disciples at

this request. Who did they think they were to ask Jesus such

a thing. They were ready to take it out back and duke it out.

Jesus takes this opportunity to teach all of them a lesson. He points out how leadership looks in the world. Pushing down others to get ahead, using status to rule over those beneath them. Having their desires fulfilled were the only things they cared about. Using their position to take advantage of the weak.

But Jesus shares four words that we can't miss. NOT SO WITH YOU! Jesus says, the world uses power to oppress. NOT SO WITH YOU. We lay down our *power* to serve others. The world only cares about who is the greatest. NOT SO WITH YOU. We lay down our *position*. We're called to look different. What if this Christmas we reminded each other of those four words, NOT SO WITH YOU. As a gentle reminder that we are called to be different.

Jesus shows us the way to greatness. It's not by sitting in prominent positions or using our leadership to get what we want. No, as Christ followers we look completely different. We think of ourselves less. We look for ways to serve. We don't compete for position.

Jesus himself, who holds every honor, status, and authority laid it down for our sakes. This Christmas let's remember Jesus's encouragement. NOT SO WITH YOU. When you feel the temptation of status and recognition

creeping in, when you see someone else getting the notice that you think you deserved, just remember, NOT SO WITH YOU. We follow Jesus and his example. We lay down our position and our status to serve.

DISCUSS

- Share a word that describes how you feel when someone serves you.
- Now, share a word that describes how you felt when you served someone else.
- Share 2-3 ways that you could serve someone in your family? How about someone in your neighborhood?

PRAYER

- Pray that God would make your heart sensitive to look for ways to serve others.
- Pray for a specific person that you would like to serve.

PRAISE

- Praise God today by imitating Christ and serve someone