

The Inner Circle

James

Introduction

In this new sermon series, we are unpacking Jesus Christ's inner circle, which consisted of his three closest disciples: Peter, James and John. Today we look specifically at James.

Main Idea: Every Inner Circle Should Encourage One Another Towards Selflessness

"And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What do you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.'" Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great one's exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **Mark 10:35-45**

Jesus Teaches Selflessness

I. The Request Was Selfish

*"And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What do you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.'" **Mark 10:35-37***

"For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice." **James 3:16**

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." **Philippians 2:3-4**

II. The Response Was Gracious

"Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

Mark 10:38-40

*"Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more," **Romans 5:20***

"Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

Matthew 16:24-25,

III. The Call From Jesus Is Greater

"And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great one's exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **Mark 10:43-45**

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." **Colossians 3:23-24,**

Closing:

This call to selflessness is counter cultural; we live in a culture where it's all about me, what's good for me, what can benefit me. Jesus is calling each of us to something greater, and, as brothers and sisters in Christ, we encourage one another in lives of selflessness.

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