



# EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Mark Sermon Series

Supports Session 8: Serves

Sermon Title: “Kingdom Expectations” (Mark 10:32-45)

## Connection to Session 8

Jesus’s earthly ministry was nearing its end as He journeyed toward Jerusalem. He knew the suffering that lie ahead, yet He continued. James and John’s requests for places of honor in the kingdom were denied. Jesus clarified some expectations to His disciples: they were to serve others.

## Introduction/Opening

How do we define greatness? In God’s kingdom, greatness isn’t found in achievements, positions of power, or titles. Jesus not only modeled a life of sacrifice, He called His people to serve others too.

## Outline

### 1. Sacrifice (vv. 32-34)

- a. Jesus was traveling toward Jerusalem with His disciples. As they walked, Jesus began telling them what was to come. This is Jesus’s third, and most detailed, description of His death and resurrection.
  - i. He would be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, who would then condemn Him to death.
  - ii. He would endure a brutal death at the hands of the Romans.
  - iii. After three days, He would rise.

### 2. Suffering (vv. 35-40)

- a. James and John approached Jesus with a request. Boldly, they said, “Teacher, we want you to do whatever we ask you” (v. 35).

- i. Their request suggested they did not yet fully understand what Jesus had just been teaching them.
  - ii. They wanted to sit at Jesus's right and left sides in the coming kingdom.
- b. Jesus, responded with His own question. "Are you able to drink the cup I drink or to be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" (v. 38). Here, Jesus was referencing His coming suffering and death.
  - i. Both men responded that they would. Interestingly, Jesus agreed with the men. This may have been a prediction of James's death and John's exile.
- c. Jesus ultimately refused their request. The places of honor were not His to give. Instead, the Father would be the one to choose who would receive those places.

### 3. Service (vv. 41-45)

- a. Jesus discerned that this was a teachable moment. The other disciples had heard of James's and John's requests. Jesus quickly used the conversation to discuss what He expected of them: lives of service.
  - i. Jesus taught "Whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you will be a slave to all" (vv. 43-44). In God's kingdom, they were called to serve others, not to seek positions of power or esteem.
  - ii. Jesus Himself would be their model. He came to serve, ultimately serving as the payment for the sins of man.

## Conclusion

Jesus gave His life to pay our sin debt. It was the ultimate sacrifice. As His followers, we're called to also serve others as He did. Instead of striving for notoriety or power, we will find true greatness when we serve and minister to those around us.

*Ken and Welda Cox live in New Boston, Texas. In 2012 Ken retired from First Baptist Church after 20 years of service. Ken has been active in prison ministry since 1995 and presently serves as interim pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Omaha, Texas. Ken and Welda have six children and nine grandchildren.*

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