

Reflection Questions: Mark 10:32-45

For the message, "Born for Greatness" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on December 11, 2022

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Mark 10:32-45

32 And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, **33** saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. **34** And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."

35 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." **36** And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" **37** And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." **38** 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?" **39** 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, **40** 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."

41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. **42** 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 ones exercise authority over them. **43** But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, **44** and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. **45** For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Let's get started...

- What initially grabs your attention in this text? What questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what it's saying?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- In this passage, Jesus redefines true greatness. How does his description fly in the face of the way his disciples thought about greatness?

- Reflect on these words of Jesus: “But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.”
 - How does this text clarify for you Jesus’ new way of being human? How does it help you understand the way we were created to love, and how we are recreated in Christ to reflect his life?
- In this passage, Jesus concludes his teaching by saying, “For even the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Here we have a truth that helps orient us to the reason Jesus was born. How does Jesus’ final sentence surprise you? Inspire you? Confuse you?
 - How does the example of Jesus underscore the greatness of Jesus?

2. Let’s think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus’ followers.

- Think about Jesus’ final evening with his disciples before his crucifixion when they began arguing with one another about who was the greatest (Luke 22:24-27). What does this tell you about the propensity that exists within the followers of Jesus when they forget what Jesus was all about?
- What is the cost if we are not transformed by this teaching of Jesus? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message?

3. Let’s think about how this text applies to our city.

- How is service to others connected to the message we proclaim to our city?
- How would Bryan/College Station look radically different if everybody did what Jesus describes in this passage? In other words, what if everyone in our community didn’t seek to be served but to serve?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

How does this passage from Mark 10 help you to appreciate Jesus more this Advent season?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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