

May 21, 2023

Pastor Keith Smith

## A Selfish Faith

**Mark 10:35-45 (NLT)**

<sup>35</sup> Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do us a favor." <sup>36</sup> **"What is your request?"** he asked. <sup>37</sup> They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left." <sup>38</sup> But Jesus said to them, **"You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?"** <sup>39</sup> "Oh yes," they replied, "we are able!" Then Jesus told them, **"You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptized with my baptism of suffering. <sup>40</sup> But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen."** <sup>41</sup> When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. <sup>42</sup> So Jesus called them together and said, **"You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. <sup>43</sup> But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."**

### Thoughts & Questions to Fuss With:

1. What do you think was the motivation behind the request of James and John?
2. Jesus inner circle consisted of Peter, James, and John. Why do you think the brothers did not include Peter in their request?
3. Jesus responded, "You don't know what you are asking." Share a time that you asked God for something, but in retrospect, you did not know what you were really asking.
4. Describe some of the sufferings that James and John would eventually experience personally?
5. Why were the other disciples so indignant once they heard about the brothers' request?
6. Compare Jesus' description of the leaders of his day with leaders today. Identify incidences you have seen "leaders of this world lord it over their people".
7. What are other biblical passages that talk about serving others?
8. Some scholars find it out of context that Jesus would mention that he "would give his life as a ransom for many" in the same discussion that he is talking about being a servant and a slave to others. Do you think it's out of context? Why or why not?
9. Who are people in your life that you can serve this week?
10. How will you serve these people?