



Being with Jesus:

A Devotional From the Book of Mark

Week 5
The Mighty Widow

Day 2

Scripture

“Jesus said to them, ‘You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.’

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 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 10:39-44

“The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted” — Matthew 23:11-12

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.” — Romans 12:10

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You serving me. Thank You for stooping low to pick me up. Help me to be a servant. Help me to honor others above myself. Show me how to be great in Your kingdom. Amen.

Questions

How can you be more of a servant in your family and friend group?

Why is it hard to serve others?

What do you think about the greatest people being those who serve the best?

Reflection

In Matthew 23, James and John asked Jesus for positions of high honor. They wanted to be His right and left hand men when his kingdom took over. When the other disciples heard about it, they were furious! They wanted the high position, as well. Maybe they thought they were better fit for it and deserved it more.

Jesus turns the conversation in a totally different direction. In Jesus' kingdom, greatness comes from being the best servant to others. If you want to climb high, you have to stoop down and serve.

Even Jesus, who is most worthy of honor, came to serve. He literally laid down His life for His friends. He paid the ransom for many in His service, and so was lifted up to the position of highest honor. This is the way the kingdom of God works.