

1/22/23 "Let's Get It Together," Mark 10:35-45, NLT

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever gotten something you wanted but discovered you really didn't want all that came with it?

Context: Jesus had just been talking about His death & resurrection.

MAIN IDEA: Let us humble ourselves. Why? Here are two reasons.

I. First, we don't understand what we're asking for (35-38).

Ex: pre-eminence (being first)

NOTE: Cup (a Jewish expression meaning to share someone's fate) & drink & baptism = share in His sufferings

A. what we want may not be possible (40)

1. because of God's purposes
2. because of others God is working with

B. what God plans to give us might be enough for us

NOTE: I think implied in Jesus' answer is this: Your path is difficult enough.

1. sacrifice of *more than time* (a popular notion)

James beheaded, John cast into boiling oil, unhurt; exiled

We have no idea who will be on Jesus' right & left hands

2. sacrifice of ego & pride, life as we want it
3. trimming away what is not like Jesus
4. suffering for Jesus

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, our perspective may be off. (41-45)

NOTE: Often we think "us vs. them"

A. disciples understood being first in a worldly sense (42)

1. thus they had conflict like non-Christians: "*How dare you try to get ahead of us.*"

Mark 10:41, MEV: When the ten heard it, they began to be very displeased

Began to be (MEV): means that more took place than is expressed; we have only the result –JFB Commentary

2. jealousy might have played a part

Mark 9:2, NLT: Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone.

B. Jesus didn't engage in their conflict

1. He didn't take sides
2. He had a different "world" for them to understand

C. He opened their eyes to kingdom perspective

1. unlike world's model, which we often seek
 - "rulers" lord it over others

lord it over: to bring under, master, overcome, domineer

- flaunt authority over others
- a top-down model of leadership

2. God's way is "upside down"

- desire to be leader, must be servant

Servant: diakonos = one who serves another, an attendant

- desire to be first, must be slave to all

Slave: doulos = one who gives himself up to another's will

ILLUSTRATION: Josh. 5:13-14, NLT: ¹³ When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, "Are you friend or foe?" ¹⁴ "Neither one," he replied. "I am the commander of the LORD's army." [Jesus, His work, not ours.]

CONCLUSION: God is about a work we don't understand. We often become angry when we don't receive what we ask for. We become angry when we think others may get ahead of us. Let us humble ourselves before God, and learn from Him.

