

Sermon Questions

November 14, 2021

Mark 10:32-45

1. The way the story unfolds, it looks a lot like James and John are trying take a privileged position at the expense of Peter. Peter has seemingly been the leader of the apprentices so far, but James and John want to take his spot and come to Jesus asking him to grant their wish. This is both in contradiction to Jesus teaching on “the first shall be last, and the last shall be first” and a betrayal of the other apprentices. Have you ever acted like James and John did in this passage? Have you seen folks act like this in politics, workplaces, or church? What was the fallout from that?
2. What do you think the language of cup and the baptism refer to in verse 38-39? Jesus is speaking about his upcoming suffering, but why do you think he extends this idea to people like James and John?
3. In verse 33, Jesus uses the language of the religious leaders *handing over* or *giving over* Jesus to the Gentiles. Typically, this language is used in Israel’s scriptures for the way God hands Israel over to the nations into exile when they are caught up in idolatry and immorality. Where you’d expect Israel’s leaders to be *handed over* because of their actions, Jesus is *handed over* instead. What do you make of this stunning reversal? What do you think the significance is of Jesus taking the place of Israel in the story and what does this have to do with the cross?
4. Where we would expect to see the Last Supper, John tells the story of Jesus taking a towel and a bucket of water in an act of service to explain how his apprentices should follow his way. Where have you seen the self-sacrificial power of the cross, or the power of the towel and bucket, on display in the places you live, work, and play? Where do you feel you might have opportunities in the season leading up to Christmas to serve others in a self-sacrificial way? How can your small group pray for you in that?
5. How would you summarize the kind of character Jesus is trying to form in his apprentices? What might this mean for us?
6. What is the best thing you heard this Sunday, or the most important thing you will take into this coming week?