

Title: ENCOUNTERING TRUE GREATNESS

Text: Mark 10:32-45

1. Jesus reveals his ambition (vv. 32-34)

2. James and John reveal their ambition (vv. 35-41)

3. Jesus requires a new ambition (vv. 42-45)

CONVERSATION STARTER

- What would you think if someone asked you to become their “servant” or “slave”? What objections do you think you might have to such a request?
- Read Mark 10:32-45. Why might the disciples be amazed and those following be afraid while watching Jesus walk ahead of them to Jerusalem? What do you think James’ and John’s request in verses 35 and 37 reveal about their perception of themselves? What are some specific ways Jesus has modeled servant-hood in the Gospel of Mark so far (see verses 43-44)?
- Read John 13:1-20. What do you think is symbolized by the washing of feet in this passage? Why might this have been hard for the disciples to accept, especially from Jesus (see verse 8)? How might Jesus’ illustration of the servant and the Master in verse 16 inform the disciples’ motivation to follow Jesus’ example?
- Read the excerpt below. Do you agree with Lewis that “being in touch” with God naturally leads to humility? Why or why not? In what ways have you felt your own pursuit of pride, of “dignity,” entrap you? How does true humility free us to be the kind of servants Jesus calls us to be?
- In what ways might we in the church buy into the world’s understanding of greatness? How might Jesus overturn this understanding? Describe a person you know who, although they do not receive much attention for it, models well Jesus’ example of service discussed here. How do you think they became that kind of person?

EXCERPT FROM: *Mere Christianity*

BY: C.S. Lewis

We must not think that Pride is something God forbids because He is offended at it, or that Humility is something He demands as due to His own dignity – as if God Himself was proud. He is not in the least worried about His dignity. The point is, He wants you to know Him: wants to give you Himself. And He and you are two things of such a kind that if you really get into any kind of touch with Him you will, in fact, be humble – delightedly humble, feeling the infinite relief of having for once got rid of all the silly nonsense about your own dignity which has made you restless and unhappy all your life. He is trying to make you humble in order to make this moment possible: trying to take off a lot of silly, ugly, fancy-dress in which we have all got ourselves up and are strutting about like the little idiots we are. I wish I had got a bit further with humility myself: if I had, I could probably tell you more about the relief, the comfort, of taking the fancy-dress off – getting rid of false self, with all its “Look at me” and “Aren’t I a good boy?” and all its posing and posturing. To get even near it, even for a moment, is like a drink of cold water to a man in a desert.