

“Everybody-Can be Great”

Mark 10:35-45 (KJV) And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire. ³⁶ And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? ³⁷ They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. ³⁸ But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? ³⁹ And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized: ⁴⁰ But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared. ⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John. ⁴² But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. ⁴³ But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: ⁴⁴ And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Giving Honor to God the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. Let's turn to Mark 10:35-45, as we lift up the Name of the Lord. The topic of today's didactic sermon is "Everybody can be Great."

As we embrace the blessings of the Word of God, we give the Lord praise for blessing us to see the beauty of a new day. We are thankful for the message of Jesus Christ and salvation through His precious blood. As a nation we celebrate the MLK holiday and reflect on the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I often think about one of the messages he shared that dealt with Jesus' teaching on being a servant. In this message, Dr. King deals with the idea that we all have an internal desire to be first, to be out front, to be great, like a drum major. These are not bad ideas, if we use them in the correct manner.

According to the text, James and John have a desire to be great. A clear desire to be recognized and to be out front. Can I get a witness somebody? Dr Martin Luther King shared that Jesus in substance said, "Oh, I see... you

want to be first. You want to be Great. You want to be important. You want to be significant. Well, you ought to be. If you are to be my disciple, you must be! But Jesus reordered priorities and He said Yes, don't give up this instinct. It's a good instinct if you use it right. It's a good instinct if you don't distort it and pervert it. Don't give it up! Keep feeling the need for being important. Keep feeling the need for being first. But I want you to be first in *love*. I want you to be first in *moral excellence*. I want you to be first in *generosity*. That is what I want you to do. And He transformed the situation by giving a new definition of greatness. You must earn it. Jesus gave us a new norm of Greatness. If you want to be important...wonderful, If you want to be recognized..wonderful. If you want to be great..wonderful, but recognize that He who is greatest among you, shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness. By giving that definition of greatness that means that everybody can be great because everybody can serve. (MLK, *Drum Major for Justice*)

- **Love** – 2 Corinthians 5:14 says “For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died.”
- **Moral Excellence** – “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” James 5:16 teaches us that when we pray for others, it will bring them closer to salvation and we ourselves will be healed.
- **Generosity** – Luke 6:38 says “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

When the other disciples discovered what James and John had asked, they were very indignant. Jesus called them to Him and said, “As you know, the kings and great men of the earth lord it over the people; but among you it is different. Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant. And whoever wants to be greatest of all must be the slave of all.

You see Jesus gave a new definition of greatness. True Greatness comes not by favoritism, but by fitness.

Jesus said “For even I, the Messiah, am not here to be served, but to help

others, and to give my life as a ransom for many.”

“Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” (Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) Tell somebody, I'm going to be great, because I'm a child of God. I'm going to be great, because I'm a servant of the Lord Jesus. I'm going to be great, because I'm filled with the Holy Spirit.

My brothers and sisters,

Everybody can be Great, because everybody can serve. Glory to the lamb of God.

If you're called to be an usher, come on and serve.

If you're called to be a missionary, come on and serve.

If you're called to be a choir member, come on and serve.

If you're called to be a lay member, come on and serve.

If you're called to be a trustee, come on and serve.

If you're called to be a steward, come on and serve.

If you're called to be a teacher, come on and serve.

If you're called to be a preacher, come on and serve.

If you're called to be a doorkeeper, come on and serve.

If you're called to be a floor sweeper, come on and serve.

Romans 10:8-11 says “But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him (Jesus) shall not be ashamed. Whatever you're called to do. Do it to the glory of God because everybody can be great...because everybody can serve. Every now and then, you ought to tell somebody about a God that

can save anybody. Serve, Serve, Serve to the Glory of God. Hallelujah, Amen.