

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Mark

INTRODUCTION | The working king, Jesus

It is normal for us to look around at those in our lives, compare ourselves with them and want more than what they have. This competitiveness flows up unconsciously revealing our pride and sense of superiority. At the same time we all have a sense of inferiority and consider ourselves less than that wells up within us. As for Jesus, how does he define a life of significance? Jesus says a life of truth and power is found in serving other people. Not only that, in giving us his life he gives us a new identity.

SCRIPTURE | Mark 10:32-45

10.32 And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, 33 saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. 34 And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.” 35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” 36 And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” 37 And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” 38 Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” 39 And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, 40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” 41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. 42 And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

QUESTIONS |

- 1: (35-37) What requests did Jesus’ disciples make? Accordingly, How do you think they tried to run their lives?
- 2: (41) What did the other disciples think of James and John’s actions? In our society, how do we think about and define a successful life? (Ref C S Lewis)
- 3: (42-45) What kind of life did Jesus point to? What are the two big differences between Christ’s teaching and their thinking on the matter?
- 4: what for you is the most difficult thing in Jesus’ on teaching on becoming “servant”? What are some concrete ways in which you can be servant or slave to those around you?
- 5: (32-34) How does Jesus’ declaration about his near future relate to his message on being a servant?
- 6: (45) What was the purpose of Jesus’ life? What do we receive from that life of Jesus?

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REFERENCES |

C S Lewis

Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call 'humble' nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.

PRAYER |

- Hallelujah! We are pointed to the love which gives life, Jesus the one who gives and gives life everlasting. The one who died yet rose again and lives forevermore. Christ leads us in life and serves us so that we glorify and praise his name.
- As we reflect on the reasons why we push down others lifting ourselves up in contrary spirit to servanthood, whether it be for money or power or whatever let us turn to Christ in repentance. Because He has given everything even his own life for our salvation we can now freely serve others. Pray that this mind and desire would be in us.

UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

- 1-Community group leaders meeting (4/4)
- 2-Lunchtime meetings (Akasaka 4/ 5, Kasumigaseki 4/6, Otemachi 4/7)
- 3- Crossroads Bible Study (4/10)
- 4- Lunchtime meetings (Marunouchi 4/13, Otemachi 4/14)
- 5- Obento project (4/16)
- 6- Crossroads bible study (4/17)