

Home Group notes for the week following 21st October 2018

SERVANTS OF GOD

AS WE GATHER

Like most Jews of that time, the disciples thought the predicted Messiah would establish an earthly kingdom and free them from Rome's oppression. It was only after Jesus' resurrection that they understood that His kingdom is centred in the hearts and lives of His followers.

READING SCRIPTURE **Mark 10:35-45** [optional readings Job 38:1-7 (34-41)
Psalm 104:1-10 + 35-36 Hebrews 5:1-10]

THINKING TOGETHER

The request by James and John shows just how little they understood Jesus, and how little they understood His teachings / preparation concerning what lay ahead in Jerusalem.

[optional readings Mark 8:31 9:31 10:32-34]

Their loyalty and confidence in Jesus shine through their confusion as they made their request based on His earlier promise to His disciples (Mark 1-:35-37) [optional reading Matthew 19:28].

Jesus did not rebuff James and John but denied their request

Why did He do this? Discuss (Mark 10:38)

We too feel free to ask God for anything, but our request may also be denied

Have you ever felt that God did not hear your prayers? Discuss

Why does God seemingly ignore / deny our requests? Discuss

[optional readings James 4:2-3 1 John 5:14-15]

James and John were willing to, and confident that they could, face any trial for Jesus (Mark 10:38-39). It is easy to say we will endure anything for Christ, yet most of us complain about very minor problems / irritations. In serving others for Christ, we need to be willing to suffer the irritations which come with this service

What irritates you most in your ministry / service to others? Discuss

How do you deal with these irritations? Discuss

Jesus' response to the request of the two disciples reveals His standard of greatness: His whole life was one long act of submission to the will of God. His answer made it clear that the ultimate issue of things belongs to God (Mark 10:40)

Has your Christian life always been one of submission to the will of God? Discuss

Jesus neutralised the anger of the other disciples when He again tried to teach them what it means to be 'great' in the kingdom of God (Mark 10:41-44).

He made it very clear what the differences are between greatness in His kingdom and greatness in the kingdoms of the world

Name and discuss the driving force and the standard in each kingdom

Throughout Scripture God's pattern is that a person must first be a servant before being made a ruler (Mark 10:45). [optional readings Philippians 2:11 and also Deuteronomy 34:5 + 10-12 1 Samuel 16:10-11 + 19-21 and 1Timothy 4:12-13]

Have you ever allowed your pride to interfere with / in your service to God? Discuss
[optional reading Job 38:4-7 + 36]

IN CLOSING

Jesus' human life was one He chose freely. Because of this He can help us become God's obedient servants, no matter how difficult this seems to be. He knows that without humility / suffering there can be no glory.

Love and service must supplant self and power in our lives.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ you came among us as the servant of all.
Overturn our wrongful pride and make us eager to serve
our brothers and sisters with loving self-sacrifice; for you
live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen