



### Part 3: Dying to Consumerism for Servanthood

Mark 10:35-45



This is Nico.

Nico is a servant. His life speaks volumes. He does this quietly, joyfully...My trust in Nico is built from my witness of his life. **I listen because I've watched.**

Servanthood: What does it mean to be a servant? Who benefits when you and I serve?

#### Servant?

Mark 10:43 Servant = minister, deacon, helper

Root: in the dust laboring or running through the dust (sweat and toil and dust and dirt and grime...)

- No possession of any ruling authority (that would be the bishops or the elders)
- Synonyms – slaves, attendants & servants
- Antonyms – lord, absolute ruler, master of the house, magistrate, almighty, governor, Caesar, emperor

Mark 10:44 Slave of all – servant of all (one who gives self over to another)

- Permanent relation of servitude to another, bound to server  
– totality, whole, oneness

Note: This is NOT the *gift* or the *office*; this is a lifestyle, a heartbeat, a desire, a goal, a response **to following** Jesus.

We are ALL CALLED to a life of servanthood.

**This sounds hard!** It is, *if* you are a consumer...one who comes each week to take in, go away, and continue.

### What does the Bible say?

Just as Jesus begins to teach of his impending suffering and death on the cross, in Mark 8:34-35, he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must **deny himself** and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it."

"The cultivation of consumer spirituality is the antithesis of a sacrificial, "deny yourself" congregation."  
Eugene Peterson, *The Jesus Way*

We often think of "denying himself" as a hardship...

Deny self... find life.

Is it a sacrifice? Yes.

#### IF World

World-self

First

Comfort/ease

Consumption

Hoard

Focus: What is taken

Transaction

Painful (only)

Not on top

An end (pain)

#### IF Kingdom

Kingdom-others

Last

Sacrifice

Exhaust (for the sake of others)

Release

Focus: What is given

Transformation

With promise

Rightful place – to stay under

Means to an end (life & joy)

### The Request of James and John (Mark 10:35-45)

"Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. 'Teacher,' they said, 'we want you to do for us whatever we ask.' 'What do you want me to do for you?' he asked. They replied, 'Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You don't know what you are asking,' Jesus said. 'Can you drink the cup [metaphor for divine judgment against human sin] I drink or be baptized [OT picture of being overwhelmed/bearing the burden of God's judgment on humanity] with the baptism I am baptized with?' 'We can,' they answered. Jesus said to them, 'You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.' When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that those who are regarded as **rulers** of the Gentiles **lord it over** them, and their high

officials **exercise authority over** them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to **become great** among you must be your **servant**, and whoever wants to be **first** must be **slave of all**. For even the Son of Man did not come to be **served**, but to **serve**, and to **give his life** as a **ransom for many**.” Mark 10:35-45 (NIV)

So, if we **follow** in the way of Jesus, what does that look like?

### **Following Jesus**

“By definition, you can’t be a follower of Jesus Christ unless you are actually following Jesus Christ.” –Tom Mercer, *8 to 15: The World Is Smaller Than You Think*

Jesus answered, “**I am the way and the truth and the life**. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

“But Jesus as the truth gets far more attention than Jesus as the way. Jesus as the way is the most frequently evaded metaphor among the Christians with whom I have worked for fifty years as a North American pastor. In the text that Jesus sets before us so clearly and definitively, way comes first. We cannot skip the way of Jesus in our hurry to get the truth of Jesus as he is worshiped and proclaimed. The way of Jesus is the way that we practice and come to understand the truth of Jesus, living Jesus in our homes and workplaces, with our friends and family.” – Eugene Peterson, *The Jesus Way*

### Way of Jesus

- Who He embraced (sinners, tax collectors, women, children, destitute, disfigured, poor, shunned by society)
- Who He included (he went after the average, the unbeliever, the misfits and drop-outs)
- Who He served (turned society upside down... got on His knees and washed disciples’ feet)

== HOW He served == Joy! Life!

Therefore, as in Ephesians 5:1-2, we should be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and **live a life of love**, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

- Rulers (rule over)  
To be first in rank, the beginning (the first of importance!)
- Lord it over (exercise lordship over)  
To have dominion over, rule over, exercise authority, to get the mastery of, overpower, subdue  
– Nothing new under the sun... rulers are rulers are rulers (extreme examples like Putin – absolute control, dominance, fear – whatever it takes to stay on top)

- Exercise authority over (exercise authority UPON)  
Two words in Greek: hostility & exercise authority – against or over someone
- Become great (will be great)  
Desire to be...
  - metaphorically: great in estimation, weight, importance, SIGNIFICANCE
  - figuratively: great in force, intensity
- Servant (minister): *diakonos* (DYAH-CON-NOS), deacon  
Root: in the dust laboring or running through the dust
- First (chiefest)  
Foremost, in rank, chief  
As in “the first shall be last and the last shall be first”
- Slave of all (servant of all)  
*Doulos*: permanent relation of servitude to another, bound to server
- Served (ministered)
- Serve (minister)  
To serve, wait upon – narrow sense – to wait on a table, serving a dinner
- Give his life  
To give of one’s own accord  
Of his own **life**: PSUCHE (sue-kee); the soul, the immaterial part of man  
– to give his soul to something (heart & soul) – **give his entire self**
- Ransom for many  
Price paid for redeeming captives
  - applies spiritually to the ransom paid by Christ for the delivering of men from the bondage of sin and death
 Many: Christ’s death was sufficient for His elect, every kind of class of humanity

## Two Take-aways

1. **I listen because I’ve watched.**  
Benevolence: doing good; love in action (1 Peter 2:12; 2:15)  
– for one another inside the church family

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:9-10

Example: You tell me who you admire, and I’ll tell you what you admire about them without meeting them first.

- humility
- wisdom
- humor (first of self)
- give, don't take
- you trust them
- you listen to them
- when you are with them, you are better...HEART OF A SERVANT

- For outside the church family = powerful witness

“Live such good lives among the [unbelievers] that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits.” 1 Peter 2:12

- Fascinating study on doing good: good lives, good deeds, doing good, benevolence, love in action  
(serve, sacrifice, give, go out of your way for another = tangible evidence of a life transformed)

U.S. is a mission field... “less than 20% of Americans regularly attend church...” – Tom Mercer, *8 to 15: The World Is Smaller Than You Think*

“Virtually all of us who know Christ made our decision to follow Him through a personal relationship with one or more believers who either demonstrated faith to us or answered our questions.” – Tom Mercer, *8 to 15: The World Is Smaller Than You Think*

“95% of us came to Christ primarily through the influence of someone in our *oikos* (extended family).” – Tom Mercer, *8 to 15: The World Is Smaller Than You Think*

**Let your life speak volumes, and you will be an influence.**

2. First will be last, and last will be first. Blessing is experienced today (John 13:17)  
Taking hold of life that is truly life = eternal life & all its blessings:
  - to follow after Jesus – His own words were to do so
  - and then you will be blessed  
DEEP EXHALE – blessing!