

Encounter | Week 3 - Why Choose the Way of Jesus?**Big Idea**

Jesus leads us in his way of sacrificial love and humble service.

Scripture

Mark 10:35-45, Mark 9:35, and 1 John 3:18

Points to Keep In Mind

1. In Mark 10:35-45, James and John were hoping Jesus would choose them to sit in power and prestige at his right and left hand, but Jesus turns their perspective upside down when he tells them that “whoever wants to become great must be a servant” and “whoever wants to be first must be slave of all” (verses 43-44).
2. In verse 39, Jesus tells James and John that they will drink the cup that he drinks and be baptized with the same baptism as him. Both terms, the cup and baptism, refer to times of difficulty. The cup was often a symbol of God’s wrath, and the baptism Jesus spoke of here was not the one he received at the Jordan River but the hardship he bore on the cross. Both James and John would suffer for Christ. James was the first apostle to die; he was martyred by Herod in Acts 12:1-5. John was the last to die, and he suffered much during his last days as a prisoner on the island of Patmos (Revelation 1:9).
3. “Ransom” is from the Greek root word “Lutron” and refers to the price paid to redeem an enslaved person or captive. Jesus was our ransom because he paid the price of our sins on the cross. By his death and resurrection, we are set free from the sin that separates us from God.
4. Both Mark 9:35 and Mark 10:35-45 highlight the contrast between worldly status and the humble servant heart that Jesus elevates. I find it both interesting and encouraging that Jesus had just spelled this out to his disciples in Mark 9, and already in Mark 10, they are quarreling about status.
5. 1 John 3:18 says, “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” This verse emphasizes the importance of genuine love expressed through deeds. It relates to Mark 10:35-45, where Jesus teaches about servanthood and sacrificial love. Both passages encourage us to go beyond mere words and express our love through selfless actions and a humble attitude.

Additional resources

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