

pray . fast . give .



Living Lent | Day 28

Service Above Self

"...[W]hoever 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 10:43-45 NIV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

In this text, the disciples, James and John, brothers by birth, strategically vie for positions of Power, Self-Glory, and Eternal Greatness. How? - They approach Jesus boldly requesting that He allows them to be seated on His right and His left in His glory.

This bold request is made as Jesus walks with His disciples to Jerusalem, to face the Cross, and comes on the heels of Jesus telling his disciples that He would be condemned and be put to death. But, first He would be mocked, spit upon, flogged, and then killed - before rising on the Third Day.

Obviously, James and John skipped the suffering part and focused on the raising from the dead part. At some point the other ten disciples became indignant at James and John, likely because they had not thought to ask themselves.

Jesus stops and reminds them all that the positions of ruler in God's Kingdom is counterintuitive to how earthly rulers rule. Jesus reminds them, and us, in this season of Lent, that God does not measure greatness by position but by sacrifice and service.

Jesus reveals, by His words and actions that in God's Kingdom the way up is down.

Lent compels us to put aside self. Lent's clarion call drives us to the humility of Christ, challenges us to suffer with Christ, and to serve rather than to be served. Lent beckons us to choose feet washing over throne sitting; suffering over success; being crushed over being satisfied.

Oswald Chambers well encapsulates the meaning of Lent: "If we are ever going to be made into wine, we will have to be crushed - you cannot drink grapes. Grapes become wine only when they have been squeezed."

Are you going up or coming down? Are you willing to become wine for the ransom of many? - Jesus shows us the way. Service Above Self.

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

As you pray and sacrifice through fasting throughout this Lenten Journey, will you take this opportunity to pay forward in generosity a gift of at least \$1 per day throughout the 40 days for the Children? It is a privilege and a blessing to give as we all look forward to Easter and the Resurrection.

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Contributor

Nick Doster, St. Simons Island, Georgia, is the Chair of the Board at Morningstar and has and continues to be an avid supporter and encourager for the Children served. Nick is the Vice-President of Synovus of St. Simons location and a long-time committed member of St. Simons Island First Baptist Church. Nick has been a blessing to Morningstar in particular in the exercise of one of his many gifts of connecting people-staff, volunteers, donors, and others-all in working towards carrying out the Vision and Mission of the organization.

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