

Bible Study

For small group discussion or personal journaling

Mark 10: 35-45

also references 10/17/21 sermon by Rev. Sharon Snapp-Kolas;

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“Sons and Daughters of Zebedee”

Sermon and Bible study also available on our website, smumc.net

Day 1. The Sons of Zebedee. Read Mark 10:35-45.

Consider James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

- Share in your group or journal some of the self-centered behaviors teenagers exhibit. These can be either teenagers you have known, or teenagers you have observed.
- Now review this week's gospel reading from Mark, and describe some of the self-centered aspects of James and John's behavior.
- Compare and contrast. In your experience, who is more self-centered, teenagers or James and John?

Day 2. Narcissism.

- Read Matthew 20:20 and Luke 22:24.
- What are the differences between Matthew and Luke's telling of the story and Mark's?
- Mark is the earliest of the gospel writers.
 - In 5 days: Jesus faces torture, crucifixion and death
 - In 4 days: He will be betrayed and put on trial
 - In one day: He will clear the Temple

- In a few hours: His triumphal entry into Jerusalem will take place
- What, if anything, could be described as “narcissistic” about James and John’s request of Jesus? Share thoughts in your group or journal.

Day 3. Covetousness.

Read the following takes on John and James’ behavior, from Sunday’s sermon:

- Greed = we covet what we don’t have.
- We have “Zebedee DNA” in our genes (Jana Childers)
- We are “tempted to choose power over love, control over the cross, being a leader over being led.” (Henri Nouwen)
- Even in the church, so often our motivation is “What’s in it for me?” (The Penguin Principles)

Do you agree or disagree with these statements? What do they mean to you?
Reflect/discuss

Day 4. Wholeness.

The Apostle Paul suggests we heal the woundedness of our “Zebedee DNA” or tendency to covet by following Jesus’ example of servanthood:

- Read Philippians 2:3-5
- Share in your group or journal how you:
 - “look out for your own personal interests”
 - and, “for the interests of others”
- Share, further, how this fulfills Paul’s teaching: “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...” (see Mark 10:45)

Going deeper... The Servant Song.

Brother/Sister let me be your servant./ Let me be as Christ to you./
Pray that I may have the grace to let you/ be my servant, too./ We are
pilgrims on a journey./ We are traveling on the road./ We are here to help
each other/ Walk a mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ Light for you/ In the night time of your fear./
I will hold my hand out to you;/ Speak the peace you long to hear./
I will weep when you are weeping./ When you laugh, I'll laugh with you./
I will share your joy and sorrow/ Til we've seen this journey through./
When we sing to God in heaven,/ We shall find such harmony/
Born of all we've known together/ Of Christ's love and agony./
Won't you let me be your servant./ Let me be as Christ to you./
Pray that I may have the grace to let/
you be my servant, too.
(Fisherfolk, "The Servant Song")

- Read the lyrics of The Servant Song a few times
- Share your reflections in your group or journal
 - What does the song mean to you?
 - What do the lyrics stir up in you?
 - Find the song on YouTube and listen to it

Close with prayer.