

# NWC Questions

for Personal Study and Small Groups - May 31, 2015

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## Passage: Mark 10:35-45 then Mark 9:33-37

**Focus:** To show that true greatness is found in the sacrificial service of others.

1. Conversation starter: Does anyone have a family member or close friend who serves or has served in the military? Why do you think people tell them, "Thank you for your service" over other professions?
2. What parallels are there in this passage and Mark 10:35-45? Why didn't the disciples get it? Are there things that God has taught you that you haven't applied to your life? What are some of those?
3. What is the cup and baptism that Jesus is speaking about in verse 38? (Some helpful passages are Jer. 25:15; Isa. 51:17; Luke 12:50)
4. What do you think about the other 10 disciples response in verse 41? What motivates them (what in the text gives you a clue? The answer is that he gathered all 12 and not just James & John to teach them about selfless service)? In what ways do you struggle with jealousy, selfish ambition, or rivalry? How do those interfere with your sacrificial service to others?
5. In verse 42, how do worldly (Gentile) leaders use their positions of power? In what ways can this be attractive to you? How do you fight against it?
6. How does Jesus define greatness for His followers in verses 43-44? How does that contrast with the world? Which group does your life (actions, not words) most closely align with? Do you desire to rule over others or desire to humbly serve them? How do you truly define greatness?
7. Where did you Serve this semester or where have you signed up to Serve next time? Share how your Sunday morning service reflects a desire to be great in God's eyes? How does it not?
8. Verse 45: How does Christ's (the Son of Man) life as a servant motivate you to serve? How does His ransom fuel your self-sacrifice for the benefit of others? What can you do to remind yourself of this regularly? (Consider reading Philippians 2:1-11)