

## 真正的谦卑——马可福音 10:42-45

### True Humility—Mark 10:42-45

#### *Introduction and Outline*

- Scripture reading: Mark 10:42-45; 1 Cor 4:1-13.  
Mark 10:42-45 (NASB 1995)  
42 Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. 43 But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
- One preacher listed ten signs of stubborn sinful nature in a Christian’s life, and each of them can be attributed to pride or lack of humility - 1. Constantly arguing with others; 2. Cannot tolerate being spoken ill of by others; 3. Being obsessive about others’ comments on oneself; 4. A compulsion to prove oneself right; 5. Unable to forgive others; 6. Indulging in the idea of being better than others; 7. Always trying to show off oneself in front of others; 8. Unable to cope with different opinions calmly; 9. Always demanding to explain when misunderstood; 10. Unable to take the initiative to reconcile when there is friction with others.
- In stark contrast to the above is the British pastor John Harper. When the Titanic he was on sank, he took no thought for himself. In the icy water, he swam from one passenger to another, seizing the last opportunity to preach the gospel to them and imploring them to accept Christ until he finally drowned. What made him live such a different life?
- The disciples in our passage today were still far from truly knowing humility and self-denial. Until Jesus went to the cross, they kept arguing about who’d be the greatest in the kingdom (9:33-34; 10:35-41), and even at the last supper they were still arguing about this very thing (Luke 22:24)! Pride is a very stubborn sin, and the Lord Jesus had to teach them the same lesson again and again (9:35; 10:43-44; Luke 22:26).
- **Proverbs 16:5** “Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.”  
**Proverbs 21:4** “Haughty eyes and a proud heart, The lamp of the wicked, is sin.”  
**Psalms 131:1** “O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; Nor do I involve myself in great matters,”  
**John 3:30** “ He must increase, but I must decrease.”
- The more insignificant you see yourself to be, the more you can be used by God for His glory.

- Outline

Title: True Humility

1. The Problem — Worldly Influence (v.42)
2. The Paradox — Desire to Be Great (vv.43-44)
3. The Proof — Serving All as Slave (vv.43-44)
4. The Pattern — Savior's Sacrificial Service (v.45)

### **The Problem — Worldly Influence (v.42)**

- Context: The disciples fought for greatness, even going to Jesus directly to ask Him for the best seats (vv. 35-41). Why is this happening? Where does this wrong mindset come from? It obviously doesn't come from the Bible, so where does it come from?

"You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them...": It comes from the world! You know that's how kings rule in the world. They rule by controlling and manipulating others with all their resources including nepotism, so they could step on others and climb up high. The higher they get, the greater their authority, and the more esteem they get from the world. That's the way the world works!

Although none of the disciples had ever held a high position in the world, they had all been deeply influenced by it. That's why James and John sent their mother to ask Jesus for the best seats in the Kingdom, and that's why the other ten disciples also got mad at them.

### **The Paradox — Desire to Be Great (vv.43-44)**

- "But it is not this way among you,": The Kingdom of God operates by exactly the opposite rule! **The great men in the Kingdom of God are humble servants who sacrifice themselves to serve others.** As one pastor said, in the Kingdom of God, "*The great men are not sitting on top of lesser men; they are bearing lesser men on their backs.*"
- "Whoever wishes to become great... and whoever wishes to be first...": In order to understand this statement correctly, we must acknowledge **a noble desire, that is, to be great in the Kingdom of God.** Jesus did not say: No one should want to be great! But, "Whoever wants to be great must be your servant." **There is a kind of wanting to be great that is totally fine!**

**【Paradox】** You may say, doesn't this encourage pride? You can't use being great as an incentive to motivate us to serve others, can you?

**【Discernment】** **Beware of false humility!** If someone says, "I don't want to be great at all, so Jesus' words don't apply to me. I don't need to serve others." What do you say? Do you praise him for humility? Such humility that you don't even want to serve others, good for you! Is that right? Of course not.

【Correct answer】 There is a kind of wanting to be great that is not only reasonable, but even necessary for all Christians to have, for Jesus says this is one motivation for us to serve others. We should desire to be great in the Kingdom of God—not in the world, but in the Kingdom of God; not for the praise of the world, but for the reward of God. To be used greatly by God, to reflect more of God’s glory, and to have more heavenly reward in the future so as to give more glory to God. There is nothing wrong with this desire. Not having such a desire, rather, would be a problem!

**1 Timothy 3:1** “If any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.” Wanting to be an overseer or elder is a fine desire. Whether one qualifies is another story, but the desire itself is good! Ultimately, this desire reflects the love for Jesus. Because you love Jesus deeply, you want to be used more by Him, and you long for Him to use your service to get more glory for Himself.

【Challenge】 Some people lack service, perhaps because they lack this kind of passionate love for the Lord! The more you love the Lord, the more you’ll want to be used by Him. Beware of the false humility that uses unworthiness as an excuse to avoid service: "Oh, I can't do it. Not I. I'm no good. You guys go ahead doing the good work, and I'll just sit back here relaxing. That's all I'm good for." This is not true humility at all. True humility is not to exalt one's own unworthiness, but to forget about oneself completely so as to serve others wholeheartedly.

### **The Proof — Serving All as Slave (vv.43-44)**

- "...shall be your servant... shall be slave of all": A "servant" is a hired worker who does various kinds of basic menial tasks, such as weeding, shoveling snow, cleaning, repairing toilets. The original word often refers to serving at the dinner table, like pouring a cup of tea or setting up chairs or other menial things. This is the way to become great in the Kingdom of God.

“Slave” is even lower than a servant. Servants are temporarily hired to do certain works, while slaves are owned by their masters entirely. Slaves have no freedom or independent rights, nor is it for them to talk about personal dreams or ambitions in life. The only value of a slave's life is to serve the needs of his master. Being a “slave of all” means treating all others as your master, that the only value of your life is to serve their needs.

【Principle】 True humility always leads to joyful service. When you truly see yourself as lowly and unworthy, and not just say it with words, but when you truly know your lowliness, you won’t care much about yourself at all, but you’ll put others first. You’ll care about if others are getting the service they need. A humble person finds his life value entirely in serving others with all his resources and abilities. This is also the life example of the Lord Jesus.

**Isaiah 49:5** “And now says the Lord, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him...”

**Philippians 2:6-8** “who, although He existed in the form of God, ... but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant,... becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

### **The Pattern — Savior’s Sacrificial Service (v.45)**

- “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve”: The disciples could not get this at that time. They couldn’t imagine God’s anointed King would not seek to be served, but to serve others to the point of death.

This also confused Pilate. Pilate asked Jesus: "Are You the King of the Jews?" (John 18:33) You don't look like a king at all! Your people insult you, slander you, attack you, and you do nothing about it! How can you be a king? What kind of king would endure such treatment? But Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world.” (John 18:36) It’s not the kind of kingdom you know, and I'm not the kind of king you know. My kingship is not about being served but serving. I rule my kingdom by exemplary service, so **My kingdom will be full of servants serving one another, not a kingdom full of bosses fighting for power.**

- “and to give His life”: Suffering is inevitable in serving God. Those who want to be great in the kingdom must be ready to suffer much for serving God. Our society has relatively little persecution, but there are many subtler kinds of sufferings.

【Examples of Suffering】 **1. Loneliness.** A kind of isolation from the world, for you will not be a popular person in the world. The latest fashion trends are not your pursuit at all, and you cannot even fully enjoy many good things, because the Holy Spirit is always compelling your heart to do your best for that which lasts eternally. **2. Tiredness.** A faithful person will not be content with just doing the minimum but will always strive for the best, which inevitably brings fatigue. **3. Criticism of others.** As you serve, you should expect others will misunderstand you, distort your words, judge your motives, call you by foul names, even slander or malign you behind your back .

- “a ransom for many”: Jesus suffered not only as an example but also to atone for sins. This is something we can never achieve no matter how much we suffer. In the Old Testament, only flawless lambs could be used as sacrifices for sin; because **the only effective sin-atonement sacrifice God can accept is the perfect and sinless One, namely, Jesus.**