

If someone comes up and says, “Will you do a favor for me?” ask what it is before agreeing. Get the facts. Do not agree to favors for people without knowing clearly what is involved. If someone asks you to check a paper for them, first see how long it is and how difficult it will be. If someone asks you to help them with a project, find out what the project is and how long it will take. In addition, to protecting ourselves from rash promises, this can help us manage our time well. One of the core problems most people with poor time management have is that they say “yes” to too many things and regret it later on. Feel free to say, “no.” If you need to think about it, tell them so. Do not say “yes” just so that someone won’t be disappointed. We are responsible to God for how we use our time, not the person asking the favor. I am not proposing being self-centered and unwilling to help, but rather being clear about the facts and not agreeing to things that God wouldn’t have us to do just to satisfy people.

TAKEAWAY

Discussion Questions—Mark 10:35-45

1. What did James and John originally say to Jesus?
2. Did He agree to do it? What did He first find out? Why did He not just agree? What lesson can we learn from this?
3. What did they ask? Why do you think they wanted to sit on each side? What was their core motivation?
4. What did it mean to drink the cup which He drank and be baptized with the baptism with which He would be baptized?
5. Did Jesus agree?
6. Why were the others upset?
7. What lesson did Jesus teach them during this teachable moment? Is this a new lesson for them? Why did He have to keep discussing it again and again?

ANSWERS: 1) positions; 2) sacrifice; 3) true

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SERMON SERIES: GOSPEL OF MARK

Pastor Harry Jones

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Week 28: True Greatness in God’s Kingdom (Mark 10:35-45)



THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

(Core doctrines of the Christian faith in a question-and-answer format)

Question #6: How can we glorify God?

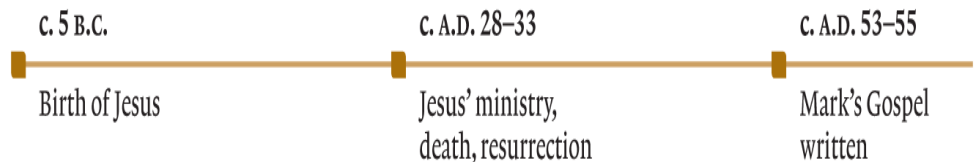
Answer: We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law.

Deuteronomy 11:1

“You shall therefore love the Lord your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always”

Key memory verse: Mark 10:45 (ESV)

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”



OUTLINE

The Presentation of the servant	The servant’s ministry in Galilee	The servant’s journey to Jerusalem	The servant’s ministry in Jerusalem
Mark 1:1-13	Mark 1:14-9:50	Mark 10	Mark 11-16

AUTHOR, DATE, AND RECIPIENTS

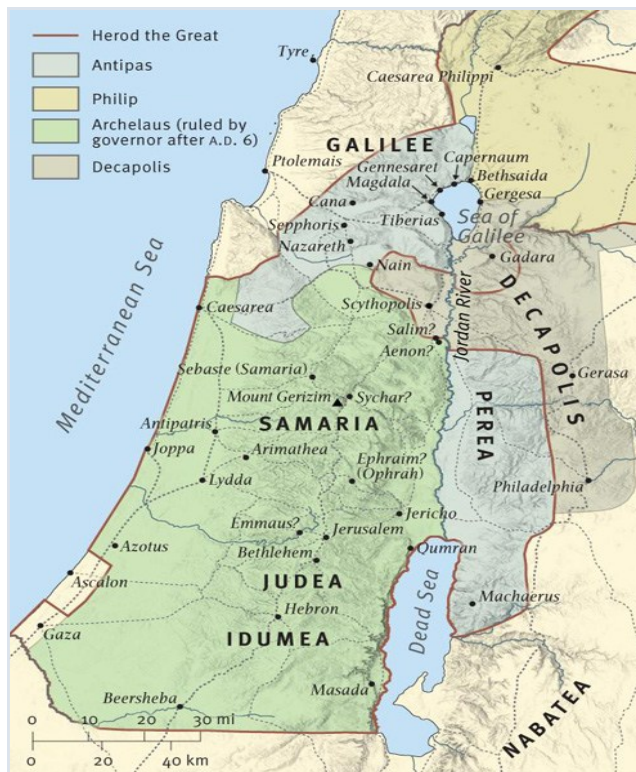
The apostle Peter passed on reports of the words and deeds of Jesus to his attendant, John Mark, who wrote this Gospel for the wider church as the record of Peter's apostolic testimony. The book was likely written from Rome during the mid- to late-50s A.D. (though the mid- or late-60s is also possible). Mark's audience, largely unfamiliar with Jewish customs, needed to become familiar with such customs in order to understand the coming of Jesus as the culmination of God's work with Israel and the entire world, so Mark explains them.

PURPOSE AND THEME

The ultimate purpose and theme of Mark's Gospel is to present and defend Jesus' universal call to discipleship. Mark returns often to this theme, categorizing his main audience as either followers or opponents of Jesus. Mark presents and supports this call to discipleship by narrating the identity and teaching of Jesus. For Mark, discipleship is essentially a relationship with Jesus, not merely following a certain code of conduct. Fellowship with Jesus marks the heart of the disciple's life, and this fellowship includes trusting Jesus, confessing him, observing his conduct, following his teaching, and being shaped by a relationship with him. Discipleship also means being prepared to face the kind of rejection that Jesus faced.

THE SETTING OF MARK

The events in the book of Mark take place almost entirely within Palestine, from Caesarea Philippi in the north to Beersheba in the south. During this time Palestine was ruled by the Roman Empire. The book opens with Jesus' baptism by John during the rule of Pontius Pilate and the tetrarchs Antipas and Philip. It closes with Jesus' death and resurrection about three years later.



Sermon Notes

1. (Mark 10:35-37) James and John request _____ of status.
2. (Mark 10:38-41) Jesus' reply: think in terms of _____, not self-glory.
3. (Mark 10:42-45) Jesus describes _____ greatness.