

What is your ambition in life?

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Mark 10:32-45

- 32 *And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,*
- 33 *Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:*
- 34 *And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.*
- 35 *And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.*
- 36 *And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?*
- 37 *They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.*
- 38 *But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?*
- 39 *And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:*
- 40 *But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.*
- 41 *And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John.*
- 42 *But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.*
- 43 *But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:*
- 44 *And whosoever of you will be the chiefest shall be servant of all.*
- 45 *For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

If I use the word “**ambition**,” what is its definition?

Webster says, that “**ambition**” is “**an eager desire for success or power.**”

The Good Ambition: Be the Best that we can be

Some time ago, we talked about ambition. I’m not sure what scripture we used to talk about it. It has not been that long ago. We talked about ambition and we talked

about that there is good ambition. There is nothing wrong with wanting to succeed. As God's children, we should want to be the best that we can. Whether we are singing, preaching, teaching, praying, and being a mom, dad, husband, wife, and friend; we should want to be the best that we can. We should want to grow in that relationship or area everyday. There is nothing wrong with that. We should have an **eager desire to be a better Christian**. We should have an **eager desire to get closer to God**. We should have an ambition. One of the eager desires that we should have is to be better people, to be more faithful, and to be better neighbors.

The Bad Ambition

The problem comes in many times in our life is when we have an eager desire, passion, or ambition for power. Again, power is something that can be good or bad. The power in these lights up here is great. Just a couple of days ago, I got into some power that wasn't so great for me. It let me know that it had power in it.

What I am saying is, when power is controlled such as in a light, or the river down here, then that kind of power is great. However, when power gets out of control sometimes such as when the river floods, or when something short circuits then things are not so great.

Tonight I want you to think about ambition. **What really is your ambition in life?** What is your ambition? What is your eager desire? Do you want to succeed as a Christian? Do you want to succeed as a husband, wife, mom, dad, or your profession? Do you want to succeed in that?

Or **do you just want to do just enough to get by?** Christian people shouldn't be like that.

We shouldn't be like that on our jobs. We shouldn't be like that with our mates. We shouldn't be like that in the church. We should have an eager desire to *succeed*. In every aspect of our life we should have that.

Keep that in mind as we look here at what is happening.

32 And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,

Jesus is on His way going to Jerusalem. He is going there and we know what is going to happen when He gets there. He is going to be crucified and they are going to kill Him. That is not very far off. From the time...the events that happened here in this scripture until the time that Jesus is going to be crucified; it is not going to be very long that this is going to take place.

He is the Son of God. We know that He is the Son of God. However, there is no doubt in my mind as I read the scripture, as I look what takes place, these things were heavy on the Lord's mind. If you remember to prove that fact, do you remember the night when they came and got Him? He went down to the garden and He prayed. The Bible says His sweat became as great drops of blood. Even though He was God, He was going to suffer in a great, great way. We need to keep that in mind.

As we look at this tonight, He is on His way to the cross. He is going that way. The Bible says that He is on His way to Jerusalem "and Jesus went before them." Many times we read things and don't really think about it.

Walking out in front

However, when you read what is happening here there is a whole bunch of people traveling here, not only the disciples but a whole multitude. I don't have any idea how many people were there. As I read the scriptures, most of the time He would walk with the crowd. The crowd would be around Him as they were traveling. This particular time, He just walks out in front of them. You might say, "Well, what is the significance in that?" To me the significance is this. He is thinking about what is going to happen in Jerusalem. He is thinking about the death that is going to take place. To prove it, I'm going to show you just here in a minute. He is thinking about what is going to take place in Jerusalem and how He is going to die. He walks out in front of them. He is not walking with them and probably not saying a whole lot to them. He was burdened. He had a lot of things on His mind because of what He was going to face when He got there.

32 And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,

"...they were amazed; and as they followed..." They were amazed that He wasn't walking with them. He is out in front of them and they were amazed because of that.

What is on your mind?

This is a good lesson for us. There are many things we could look at here. However, there are times that our demeanor is different than it is other times. What I mean by that is there are times that when you speak to me, I may not be near as jolly today as I was yesterday when you saw me. Likewise, you are the same way. The reason that I am saying that is this. Many times when we meet someone out on the street, or we meet them in Lowe's or wherever we may meet them at, or even at church sometimes; we speak to people today and they may not necessarily come across as they are real happy to see us or whatever. What we don't realize is what is on their minds that particular day, or what they have went through that particular day, or how they feel physically at that particular time.

What I am saying is that we need to **give people the benefit of the doubt** sometimes. In times like that, I know that we have people that are grouchy all the time. I understand that. There are people like that. However, not all the time we are the same. I'm not saying that we are hateful one minute and out of character the next minute. I am talking about that there are times when we have things on our minds when people sees us they say, "What's wrong with Bob today? What's happened to him today? He wasn't carrying on like he normally does." Many times we don't understand what people are going through.

These guys here were amazed because Jesus was not walking with them. He was walking out in front of them. They were amazed about that. They were just beside themselves because Jesus was not walking with them.

Many times it does not take much to upset us. It really doesn't.

These guys were the guys to see Him walk on water and raise the dead. If it didn't take much to get them upset then it don't take much to get us upset either.

32 And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,

In other words, some were amazed and were afraid. Some were probably thinking "He's mad at us today. We've really messed up this time. We've really done something wrong here. He's really mad at us." Again, some of them were just amazed "He's not walking with us anymore. He's running off and leaving us. What's wrong with Him?"

Again, we should give people the benefit of the doubt. Sometimes that is going to be your neighbor and sometimes that is going to be you. As I said earlier, we are going to get up on the end of the bed and sometimes your neighbor is going to get up on the end of the bed. Sometimes, it is going to be your wife or husband. We need to give them the benefit of the doubt. We don't like to do that. We think it's either my way or the highway. We need to grow up sometimes in our life. In our Christian life, in our relationship with husbands and wives...well, that's a different message and we will talk about that some other time.

32 And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,

He knows that they are amazed. He knows that some of them are afraid. Therefore He takes the twelve aside and says, "Let me explain to you why I have been walking in front of you. Let me explain to you why my actions, my demeanor, or how I may be different than what you are used to."

32 And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,

I promise you, if you and I knew the trials that we were going to go through tomorrow or day after tomorrow or a week from now, then there wouldn't be too much happiness in our lives. There are going to be issues to come for all of our lives—some good and some bad. If we knew all the bad things that were going to come into our lives while we are on planet earth then we probably would not spend that much happy time here. Isn't it great that God has all of that in His hand? He is in control of all of that. I'm glad that when the bad times come the grace of God is there, the power of God is there and He will help us through the bad times when they get here. Isn't that great?

Jesus tells them what is going to happen

33 Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:

Here they are walking along the way. Some are amazed and some are afraid; “Why isn't He walking with us? Why is He acting like this today?” He said, “Let me tell you. I am on my way to Jerusalem and this is what is going to happen when I get there. This is what is going to take place when I get there.”

33 Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:

The word “**delivered**” is a good word. How would you describe the word “delivered?” What do you think about when you think of the word “delivered?” If we order something, whether it is a pizza, whatever it is; if we order something, we want it delivered to our address. In other words, **if we pay for something then we want it delivered**. Don't we? The word here “delivered” means something similar to that.

It means **Jesus—it's already been foreordained that He is going to be delivered or handed over to the chief priests and the scribes**. It has already been predetermined that He is going to be delivered or given over to them. That is what that is talking about here. Predetermined before the heavens and the earth was ever created or was ever formed; it was already predetermined that Jesus Christ was going to die. That He was going to die on a cross outside the city of Jerusalem. He was going to die. It was already predetermined. This whole thing did not happen by accident. It didn't happen by accident that Jesus here went to Jerusalem and He was killed there. That did not happen by accident but it was the plan of Almighty God. He understood that we needed a Savior. This is how God ordained things for you and me to have a way to be saved. Praise the Lord for that!

33 Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:

The chief priests were the religious leaders of the crowd. They were the ones who should have known who Jesus was. They should have been some of the ones to recognize Him first. They read the Old Testament scriptures and they knew a lot of things back there, but they did not know who He was. They were the religious crowd. The scribes were the ones who took the original Mosaic Law and they took it from the stones or tablets and re-wrote it putting it on parchments and so forth. However, as they wrote it, they did so to suit themselves. They put their own statutes, laws and judgments in it. That is who the scribes were.

33 Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:

“...they shall condemn Him to death...” In other words, they are going to condemn Him to die. The sentence when He gets there; what is going to happen is that they are going to condemn Him. They are going to say that He is guilty. They are going to say that He is worthy of death and He is going to die.

33 Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:

“...they shall deliver Him unto the Gentiles.” We know that is exactly what they did; the Gentiles being the Romans. The Romans were in control. Not only are the chief priests, the scribes, the elders, and all the rulers of Israel—the Jews; but also He was delivered unto the Gentiles.

Someone asked a question one day on TV. “Who was really responsible for Jesus going to the cross? The Jews? Or the Gentiles?” I say, we all were. Every one of us; Jews, Gentiles or whatever we are; we were all guilty before Almighty God. That was the reason that He went there was because of our sin—all of us, not just one little group. Keep that in your mind as we look at verse 32, because that explains to us why Jesus was doing what He was doing. That explains why He was out in front. That explains why He was acting, perhaps not as vocal as He had been before. He wasn’t teaching them any parables. He wasn’t talking to them about anything. He was just walking out in front by Himself.

There are times that I do that. If you have never done this then you need to do this. I’m going to say this too and I mean this sincerely. I’m going to meddle here just a tad. There are times that husbands and wives—there are times that husbands don’t want their wives to be that far away from them. There are husbands that don’t their wives away from them at any time. There are wives that feel the same way about their

husbands. They want them there all the time. They want to know where they are at and what they are doing, who they have talked to. There are times that we need to have time by our self, not to get out here and get in meanness or mischief. However, there are times that men and women need to have some time alone. There are times that we need to do that. There are times that I leave and say, “Deb, I’ll see you when I get back. It may be today. It may be tomorrow, but I’ll see you when I get back.” That’s fine with her. When she says she is going somewhere then that’s fine with me. We need time apart. There are times that we need to spend time together and have intimacy and all that but there are times that we need to be apart.

Jesus here; it was one of those times that His mind was focused upon what was coming His way and He knew what was going to come. He wanted and was spending time alone.

Todd talks to me all the time. He gets to talking to me sometimes and he talks to me about five minutes and I don’t say anything. He says “You are not listening to me are you?” I said, “No. No I’m listening to you.” Sometimes I’m thinking about something else. I’m not trying to ignore him necessarily. There are times that your mind is pre-occupied with other things. Sometimes the kids are sick. Sometimes you are sick. Sometimes this or that is going on. There are greater issues going on than what we may be discussing sometimes.

Jesus, the reason He was doing what He was doing is because His mind was pre-occupied. He knew what was going to happen. He knew that He was going to die. He knew all these things were going to happen. That is the reason that He is doing what He is doing.

With that in mind, and I know that I went a long way to get here. Look what happens now.

He has just told them that He was going to die. If you read Matthew chapter sixteen when they were at Caesarea Philippi, Jesus told them there that He was going to die. He told Peter that He was the rock and upon this rock He built a church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. In chapter twenty of Matthew, He tells them again that He is going to die. There were different responses there. He tells them again plainly the Son of Man; they knew He was the Son of Man. They knew who He was. He says, “I’m going to go to Jerusalem and they are going to kill me. I’m going to die when I get there.”

34 And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

That’s what is going to happen. They are going to mock Him. “They are going to mock me. They are going to scourge me. They are going to spit upon me. They are going to kill me, but in three days I’m going to rise again.” That is what He is telling

these people. That's why He was acting the way He was. That is what was going on in His mind. Now look what they do.

Ambition: the wrong way

The reason in the beginning, I mentioned "ambition." Ambition is a great thing if it is focused in the right direction, but **ambition can be a horrible thing if it is focused in the wrong direction.**

35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.

When anybody comes with a question like that for me; I worry. What they are saying is "Jesus we want you to do for us whatever we say that we want you to do for us." In other words, "Whatever we ask you to do that is what we want you to do."

When the kids were small they used to do that. "Dad, we want you to do something for us but you need to say yes before we tell you." That is really what they were saying here.

"Lord, we want you to do this for us. We want you to say yes before we actually ask you."

Even today, there are grown-ups that do you that way. They try to put you in a trap. They try to trip you up. Many people like that go to church. We don't need to be like that. We don't need to be that way. We don't need to be deceitful.

These guys are really being deceitful. When you look at what happened here, their ambition was wrong. Their eager desire for power and success was wrong. It was very deceitful, first of all. They say "Lord, we want to ask you to do this for us. Tell us it is okay and then we will tell you what it is." If you read in the book of Matthew chapter nineteen or maybe twenty, you will find out that James and John's mother was with them when they came. Here it just mentions James and John being the sons of Zebedee. However, if you read Matthew's account of this, we will read that their mother was there with them also.

36 And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?

Jesus knew what was going on. He knew exactly what their request was going to be. However, for the thing to play out He had to ask them "What do you want? What's on your mind? What do you want me to do for you?"

37 They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.

He has just told them that He is going to die. He is going to be scourged. He is going to spit upon. They are going to do all kinds of horrible things to Him. Their next thought is "If you are going to Jerusalem then we need to be exalted." Their ambition is that they want to be exalted here above everybody else. Their ambition was "When you get to your glory, we know that you are the Son of God. We know who you are. We know that you are Messiah. When the kingdom is set up..." That is really what they thought. They completely overlooked the fact that Jesus was going to die. I don't whether they were spiritualizing. I don't have any idea what they were thinking here necessarily. I do know that they did not understand that Jesus meant that He was going to die. Their request was "Grant unto us that John may sit on the right side and James on the left side in your kingdom." That was their request. Isn't that horrible? Don't you think it is?

That would be like me saying "Hey, I'm going to die of cancer tomorrow." Then one of you guys says "Hey, I'll take your Harley when you die." [Out of the congregation is said "I want your rail buggy."] That would be about the same thing. Wouldn't it?

We know who you are. We know that you are the Son of God. We know that you are the Messiah. We understand all that, but we would like to sit one on the right hand side and one on the left hand side in the kingdom. That is their request.

Ambition sometimes eats us alive. Sometimes our motives are all wrong. The drive for success sometimes is all wrong. We want to have power. Not everybody God has ordained to be in positions of authority. God has not done it. The great thing about God and the great thing about living a Christian life is that you don't have to have authority to be happy. You don't have to be over a legion of soldiers or to run a company of five hundred million dollars a year or to have some great big job where there are all kinds of people answering to you; you don't have to have that to be a happy Christian. If whatever your responsibility in life is, whatever your gift or talent that God has given you; it does not matter what it is, if you know this is God's will for your life and you are doing it. It may small in somebody else's eyes. There may be somebody over here that may be in the will of God doing exactly what God wants them to do. You may be sweeping the floors at home, taking care of your family, you may be raising your kids, and you may be working in a job where that you are answering someone else and you are in the will of God; you can be happy doing that. The other guy over here might be the boss of the people who have a half a million dollar business; if he is in the will of God, he is no happier than you are. What I am trying to say is that when we are in the will of God our position in life does not matter. Whether we are kings, or whatever we may be in life and if we are in the will of God doing what God has called us to do, whether we are over here or over there, it makes no difference. If we are in the will of God, that is what dictates whether we are happy or not.

In so many people lives...I'm not saying that people are not saved when they do this but I am saying that they need to grow up. So many people think that only success

can come when they are the boss or when they are in charge, or when others are answering to them. That is wrong.

I've worked at companies before and I've seen people manipulate the system and manipulate people and lie like rugs to get to a big position. However when they got there that did not make them happy. It made them miserable actually. They did not last long there. Do you know why? It was because of how they go there. Do you know what I've seen God do? I've seen God take some folks that may not be able to write their name in box car letters and may not have a third grade education, but I've seen God take them and stand them in rooms with people who were worth untold millions of dollars asking them questions. The millionaires were asking the guy that had the third grade education questions. How do we do this? How can we make this succeed? How does this work? How can we do that?

Let's **don't let the eagerness for power to steal away the joy of living a Christian life.** There is nothing wrong with having authority and power if God gives it to you. We all need people like that. We need Billy Graham's. We need Calvin Evan's and we need Charles Stanley's and we could name a whole bunch of people like that. We need people like that. We all need people like that. We need presidents. We need mayors. We need all kinds of people in our civil governments. We need all those things. The thing is not to let that drive to have these positions of power steal us away from the joy of our salvation. Whether we are a king or a janitor; both can live and be successful in their Christian lives. Position does not dictate how happy we are with God. Our relationship with God dictates how happy we are with God.

They said we want to have one on the right hand side and one on the left hand side in thy glory.

They knew not what they asked

38 But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?

In other words, Jesus said you guys don't have a clue what you asking. You don't have any idea what you are talking about.

Be careful what you ask God for because you just might get it

Remember something and don't ever forget this. We need to be very careful what we ask God for because God just may grant it. We better be very careful what we ask God for because God just may grant it. Did you ever think about that?

They asked for one to sit on the right hand side and the other to sit on the left hand side; that is their request. That is what they want to do. That is what they think they want to do. However, what they did not understand was that to get to the places of authority, to get to the throne there had to be a cross. To get to the place to where they

wanted to be there had to be suffering. There had to be death. They did not see that. They did not see when they made the request “Hey, we want to sit here and here and you in the middle. Everything will be fine. You run things. Everything will be great.” They did not understand that there was going to be suffering, pain, sorrow, rejection, and death. They did not understand that. Jesus made the statement “You guys don’t know what you are talking about. You guys have no idea what you are asking.”

38 But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?

39 And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:

The cup here that Jesus is talking about is “the will of God.” The will of God for Jesus Christ was that there was a bitter cup of suffering that He was going to have to endure and drink. “...let this cup pass from me, nevertheless, not my will but thy will be done...” That was the prayer in the garden. The cup here that He is talking about is the will of God for His life. The will of God for Jesus’ life was for Him to go to the cross, suffer, bleed and die. Jesus said, “Hey, you guys indeed can drink of the cup that I drink of.” In other words He is saying there is a will for your life and you are going to drink of it. You are going to drink of it.

Remember this.

James and John were great men. However, who was the first one killed? It was James. James was the first martyr. He asked to sit upon the throne. He did not realize to get to the throne that there had to be death and suffering. James was the first one that they killed. Do you know what happened to John? He was the one on the Isle of Patmos. Do you remember him?

Watch out for what you ask for because you just may get it. Many times when we get it we may not like it. The reason that I am saying it in that way, I’m saying what have we prayed for? What have we asked God for? Let’s make sure that we always add in our prayers God, if this be thy will. Lord, if what I am praying for here, if this be your will then so be it. If it is not then just move it out of the way. Lord, let me forget about it. If it is not in your will for me to have this or to be here or to do that or whatever it is that we are praying for; Lord, if it is your will then fine, but if it is not your will Lord, then it is also fine. They did not know what they were talking about.

James, they killed him. They killed James. John was on the Isle of Patmos, out on the Asian Sea out there on the barren rocks. We know that he had a good time while he was there; as far as Revelation goes. Probably the suffering was great. They did not have a clue what they were asking for. Sometimes in our prayer life the things that we ask God for to do; we don’t have any idea. If we get them, we are not going to like it.

Jesus makes this statement:

39 And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:

40 But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.

Here is the thing. They wanted positions of authority. Their ambitions were “We want to be great.” “Jesus, we know that you are Messiah. We know who you are. We know that you are the Son of God and we understand that. We know that you are going to sit upon the throne. We know that you are going to have a kingdom and we understand all that. However, we want to sit one on one side and the one on the other side.” What they did not understand was that those kinds of requests were requests that they did not know what they were asking. Had they known that in order to have that granted meant the suffering and all that it took to get there; they would have never done it. Jesus said, “For you sit on my right hand and the other on my left is not mine to give. It is going to be given to those for whom it is prepared for.”

Get this

As I said earlier, not everybody is going to have a position of authority in this life. It does not mean that you are not saved. It does mean that you can't be happy. It does not mean that you are not successful as a Christian. It does not mean that at all. It does mean that God is a God of government. Let me ask you a question. If everybody here sitting here tonight listening to me was a pastor; what kind of a mess would we have? [Congregational answer: We wouldn't be listening to you.] If everybody here played the piano, if everybody here could sing on the same level, if everybody here could do all the same things that everybody else does, the same way in the same manner then this would be a boring place. Wouldn't it? God is a God of order. God puts pastors, teachers, evangelists, people—if you read the book of Corinthians—people who help, people in music; God puts all those people in those positions for us. He does not need them, but we need them. I need to be taught. You need to be taught. I need to be led and you need to be led. Singing is great. I love to hear singing. Don't you? It encourages me. It makes me feel good. We need to be shepherded. We need all these things. God does not need them, but we need them. God put all these things in the church for the perfecting of the saints. He put all these offices in the church to clean us up, to make us more perfect, and to make us get closer to Him.

Just because one fellow pastors a church that has ten thousand people in it and the next guy pastors a church that has twenty in it; does not mean the guy who pastors the church that has the ten thousand is any closer to God than the guy who pastors the church with twenty in it. It does not mean that at all. The guy that is singing to millions tonight, may be a great Christian, individual lady, man or whatever, and somebody who may be singing to eighty-nine people here; that does not make the person who is singing to millions any more blessed than the person who is singing to a hundred. Here is the thing. Don't forget this. I'd rather sing to a thousand than I would a hundred, and I would

rather preach to a hundred than I would ten. That's true. Here is the thing. Whatever our responsibility in life, our happiness and our joy and our success depends on our faithfulness to do whatever it is that God has asked us to do. If God exalts us and puts us in a place over here and we are speaking to ten million people then that is great. If God exalts us and puts us over here and we are speaking to thirty that is also great. The guy who is speaking to thirty can be just as happy and just as close to God as the guy speaking to ten million can. The same principle is in your life. The thing is submission and obedience to God. Whether we are willing to take the step, whether we are willing to lay all the things aside and let God be the Lord of our lives or we want to be boss.

Sometimes, our ambition is all wrong. We want to do what we want to do.

Jesus makes it very plain.

43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:

It talks about how the Gentiles exercise Lordship over them and the great ones authority over them.

43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:

44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest shall be servant of all.

Determining greatness in a Christian life

Do you know how you determine greatness in Christian life? You determine greatness by how many you are serving. That is how you can prove how great people are is by how many people they are serving. How many people they are helping is how you determine how great that you are. You want to be great then be a servant. Truth

Are you saved? If you are not, then come.

Come—