

Good morning every one. Hello and welcome to today's Sunday morning devotion. My name is Nathan Laframboise and I come from the college of dupage UBF. I am also and engineering student.

The title of my message is *not to be served but to serve*.

Lets read the key verse, verse 45 together.  
Begin. Key verse 45

Let me pray....

Begin message

2010 Regional Summer Bible Conference Morning Devotional Message

## **NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE**

Nathan Laframboise (DuPage UBF)

Mark 10: 35-45

Key verse 45

**"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,  
and give His life as a ransom for many."**

How many of you came from out of state???

For all those who are from out of state I work for a grocery store chain called Jewel/ Osco and above stocking produce my main concern is tending to the customers. Does anyone have any experience in a food store or retail?

Everyday I go into the produce dept. my job consists of two things; replacing, rearranging, or culling fruits and vegetables is sort of the second priority right behind greeting customers. Without customers a business cannot succeed so I put on a bright cheerful face (something like this) and interact with the customers with all the gusto I can muster. This job is not one I intended to get coming into high school and it is not one I intend to keep when I leave for university so in a sense I have one foot out the door while at work.

I do perform my job in an efficient manner but the hardest thing to do while I am there is reconciling my faith in God with the menial tasks I

endeavor to accomplish. Working retail is not exactly something which brings me a sense of fulfillment as my faith does, but let's face it, even the fishermen James and John had to find some way to learn to love what they did. For me it was passages like key verse 45 that reminded me of my purpose not only at Jewel/ Osco but in life as well. My purpose is to reveal the glory of God in people's lives through performing goods and services in his name. After reading passages from the New Testament it was plainly evident to me that God placed me at my job to humble me so that I can learn how to serve others.

By God's will I mean to present too you one way in which someone can become truly great in the eyes of our creator. This method will commemorate Jesus Christ by following in his footsteps and looking not to be served but to serve. We can thus give our lives as a ransom for many and be seen as the paragon of greatness in this generation. Hopefully I can lead you through my learning curve this morning with a grace only God can give.

In today's passage we read about James and John who are cousins of Jesus and fishermen by trade. They are men called by Jesus yet still have so much to learn about how to follow him correctly. Their concept of greatness lays rooted in the political system of the day thus their perception of Jesus is that of a conquering emperor instead of a savior. In verse 35 they approach Jesus and ask "**Teacher,**" they said, "**we want you to do for us whatever we ask.**" I can imagine Jesus putting on a quizzical face as he inquires back 36. "**What do you want me to do for you?**" Jesus answers their politically driven question with humility plain and simple because for God neither request nor task is too great or too small to be accomplished.

The men demand of Jesus 37. "**Let us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory**" to which Jesus responds "**You do not know what you are asking,**" in this I think back to the movie "A few Good Men" when, during the court scene Tom Cruise demands of Jack Nickelson's character "I want the truth!" to which Jack retorts "you can't handle the truth!" Jesus Christ continues (point to crowd and say "James, John?)

"**Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?**" Both John and James know what both the Cup and Baptism symbolize. The Cup represents death by poison and it was common knowledge at this time while Baptism usually represented Martyrdom. What

Jesus is asking is this, are you willing to make the ultimate sacrifice? To not only die but die in the service or defense of your faith? Are they willing to become Martyrs?

I've gotten myself into some hot water back in the day at work where I would begin to take my job for granted. It would get to the point where I was working so much I did not have enough time to hardly study during the week. Being ever the optimist I would think "yes I can" because I am a genesis of hard work. More amazing still is how James and John respond to Jesus' dire question with such confidence "we can" as if they knew what to expect many months from then. Our quest for power and notoriety, especially when coming from a very common background like fishing, can leave mere mortals such as us very short sighted. With eyes so fixated on the prize in front of them how can the Apostles take time to analyze what Jesus is truly saying? He knows their hearts better than they do so he gathers the other 10 apostles to him and lays out God's method to greatness.

He tells us in verse 42: **You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.** Back then rulers were brutal more often than not and their rule of law was dictated by what ever the king felt that day. Nobility was to be feared and never touched; it bowed down to no one and had no God because it wished not to serve another master, either than itself.

After saying verse 42 I can imagine Jesus standing up in front of his apostle, a radiance about him as he spoke in 43 and 44: **"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all."** No, you will not be like those kings of old because you shall be greater. You will take the road less traveled on your way to God by serving others as a slave does with neither reward nor a pleasure seeking heart. Jesus is telling us in order to be truly great in God's eyes we must serve his people whole heartedly. Is it just one person we must serve? No, we must serve al----llllllll man kind regardless of their disposition.

Jesus testified before them about his purpose here on earth. 45. **"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom of many."** This was Jesus' humble mission

statement, his testimony for all to hear and the moral ground he based his ministry on. If Jesus is good enough to call himself a servant and if God is married to the church, in definition the body of believers that make up the church, than who are we to deny others when they need serving? The key verse is life changing because it requires a change of mind and heart, only after this does a change in action naturally follow.

**"For even the son of man did not come to be served"** Here we see that Jesus decided not to be served. The Son of God was very much worthy of being served but this was not his purpose. When getting ready for work in the morning my mind is in a hundred different places at once least of which is returning to the salt mines. Lets be honest serving was never my drive for working, making some coin was my motivation. Yet the pay does not reflect the effort needed to make a place look nice. I would be a very disgruntled worker if my happiness reflected my pocket book. Out of necessity I remember back to the first part of 45, pop my polo collar, and look representable for older ladies. Organize you appearance and you mind will follow a teacher once told me. I dress in a humble worker's garb to remind myself of my position as a service professional.

**"But to serve"** Not only did Jesus decide not to be served but to actively serve. After a long day of teaching to a hungry crowd of 5,000 Jesus himself is fatigued yet, through God's power he turns five loaves of bread and two fish into enough food to feed the crowd. This great feast is but one example of how He freely served the masses who came to him in their time of need. Note Jesus' response in verse 36 **"What do you want me to do for you?"** This is the question of a true servant because it entails no reservation or hesitation. My whole identity at Jewel is a produce guy so it is expected that I fill the servant role. Jesus, instead, is the son of God who's feet we should be washing. It was him who wrapped the towel around his own waist and washed the feet of his friends. Thinking of Jesus I throw down my pride however infrequently, pick up my cross, turn my heart towards God and pray for the strength to do his will at work. While driving to work I give up all expectation of having any of my colleagues pick up my slack. It now comes down to me, the department, and the question "how may I help you."

**"And to give his life as a ransom for many"** My job does not raise the dead nor can I save someone's life by exchanging a potato for a potato. My act of service is limited but Jesus' greatest act of service was ransoming sinners out of death. He did this by giving his life on the cross as an act of obedience to God the Father. The wages of sin is death thus a blood payment

is required to deliver us. Jesus' blood is being shed as a monetary ransom so a sinner's soul could be set free. We are delivered out of bondage into His service; from Satan's dungeon to the courts of God's Kingdom. We are now in his service. 2 Cor 5: 20. States; We are therefore now Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God.

Serving is beautiful in God's eyes because his creation is taking their place at his side. This is what truly inspires me to work, every day is a opportunity to live as Jesus did in the service of others.

Who are we to pass up the opportunity to give our life for someone by going out and performing one to one ministry? We are not saving their lives but it is their hearts being opened to the word of God which allows the Holy Spirit to work miracles in their lives. Living in the service of others is not a choice because it was not a choice for Jesus; it was his whole reason for becoming like us Flesh and Blood. So then we have no choice but to follow Jesus' example to the letter because it is our reason for living as humans.

My repentance is all the same though, I repent for sitting idly by watching others do God's work, I repent for being short sighted and looking for immediate glory, I repent for not seeking God in every aspect of my life. (May God have mercy on me and forgive my self-glory seeking mentality!)

The key verse **"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many"** Let us think about Jesus who is the almighty powerful God but came into the world as a tiny baby in a manger in order to serve all of us. It is Jesus who had to be served but he served every kind of sinner through his healing, preaching, even through his death on the cross for our sins. Praise Jesus who served even this wretched sinner. Whenever I remember Jesus' humble serving I want to serve others like my Lord Jesus. May God help me to grow as a man of God who can serve my Bible students Dave, Addis, Gabriel with the humility of Jesus! May God make me a truly great man of God not to be served but to serve others! Let us read today's key verse 45 all together and finish with my closing prayer!)

Closing Prayer