

A crown of thorns, a symbol of suffering and sacrifice, is shown resting on a weathered wooden plank. The thorns are dark and sharp, with some small red spots that suggest blood. The background is a close-up of the wood's grain, creating a somber and textured atmosphere.

# THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Mark's Gospel Account

A driven person is preoccupied with the symbols of accomplishment. They are usually conscious of the concept of power, and they seek to possess it in order to wield it. That means that they will be aware of the symbols of status: titles, office size and location, positions on organizational charts and special privileges.

There is generally a concern for one's own notoriety when in a state of drivenness. Who, the driven person wonders, knows about what I am doing? How can I be better connected with the “greats” of my world? These questions often preoccupy the driven person.

- Gordon MacDonald,  
Ordering Your Private World

## Mark 10:35-45

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.”<sup>36</sup> “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.<sup>37</sup> They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.”

## Mark 10:35-45

<sup>38</sup> “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

<sup>39</sup> “We can,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with,

## Mark 10:35-45

<sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.” <sup>41</sup> When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. <sup>42</sup> Jesus called them together and said,

## Mark 10:35-45

“You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

<sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,  
<sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

# Mark 10:35-45

<sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



# Colossians 1:15-18

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

# Colossians 1:15-18

<sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

# Mark 10:35-45

<sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

## MAIN IDEA:

Mature disciples of Jesus  
always ask for towels  
and never worry about titles.

*Four Destructive Titles for Disciples:*

1) Worthy – “They’d be lucky to have me!”

*Definition: having or showing the qualities or abilities that merit recognition in a specified way*

*Four Destructive Titles for Disciples:*

2) Busy – “I would help if I could find the time.”

*Four Destructive Titles for Disciples:*

3) Volunteer – “I put in at least 10 hours this year! Why haven’t I been acknowledged? Oh well, this will look good on my resume”

*Four Destructive Titles for Disciples:*

4) Unqualified – There's no way Jesus could use someone like me. I don't fit in.



## *Three Reasons to Embrace Towels:*

- 1) Serving frees us to find our worth in Christ alone.

“(Jesus) is asking us, “Will you take what you think defines you, leave it behind, and let Me define who you are instead?”

The cool thing about taking Jesus up on His offer is that whatever controls you doesn't anymore. People who used to be obsessed about becoming famous no longer care whether anybody knows their name.

People who used to want power are willing to serve. People who used to chase money freely give it away. People who used to beg others for acceptance are now strong enough to give love.

When we get our security from Christ, we no longer have to look for it in the world, and that's a pretty good trade.

**- Bob Goff, Love Does**

## Philippians 3:4-9

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

## Philippians 3:4-9

<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him...

## *Three Reasons to Embrace Towels:*

- 1) Serving frees us to find our worth in Christ alone.

*Three Reasons to Embrace Towels:*

2) Serving brings us closer to the heart of God.

## *Three Reasons to Embrace Towels:*

3) Serving is the pathway to greatness and joy.



## Acts 20:35

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' ”

## *Three Reasons to Embrace Towels:*

3) Serving is the pathway to greatness and joy.

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