

## "DISCIPLESHIP MISTAKES"

Mark 10:35-40

Minnesota Vikings defensive end Jim Marshall alertly grabbed a loose ball that was fumbled by San Francisco's Billy Kilmer. Marshall ran like the wind to the end zone. Unfortunately, he had become disoriented and ran to the wrong end zone. So, rather than six points for the Vikings, he scored a safety for the 49ers. "My first inkling that something was wrong was when a 49er player gave me a hug in the end zone," stated Marshall after the game. Our scrip: 2 disciples are disoriented about usefulness & destiny. Jesus has to correct some discipleship mistakes.

### I. COMPETITION

A. James/John made a common mistake about usefulness & destiny

1. It is simply a matter of position/title/attention

a. **V37** They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."

1. Attention/position/titles make me powerful and important

2. If you view destiny this way – you view the things of God as a competition

a. They are asking privately/getting in first before the other disciples

1. We win – b/c more people will see us 2. We win – b/c we have an important position

3. If you view it like a competition – then you will resort to carnal tactics

a. If I can out maneuver my brothers... (another translation/story – they get their mom to ask!)

b. We refuse to help others – they might look good c. We speak bad about

B. The mistake of this – we fail to understand where usefulness & destiny comes from!

1. **V40** for those for whom it is prepared 2. **Psalms 75:6-7** <sup>6</sup> For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. <sup>7</sup> But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another.

2. This approach is really simply a failure to trust God: He sees/He knows/He is in charge!

### II. OVERESTIMATION

A. A common mistake disciples make is seen here

1. Overestimating your ability:

a. **Mark 10:38-39** But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" <sup>39</sup> They said to Him, "We are able."

2. 3 areas of overestimation:

a. **I'm ready:** We're ready for leadership/power! B/C we think in terms of position/attention

b. **I can handle it:** Ready for the cup/baptism – No problem, I will fly through it

c. **I'm better than they are:** We compare assuming they're worse/assuming we're better

1. **Romans 12:3** For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

B. To help us – God allows us to go through the humbling process: *He doesn't just say – you're delusional!*

1. **You will get more than you realize in life:**

a. **V39** You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;

1. Pressure/trauma/violations...

2. **You become exposed:** **Mark 14:50** Then they all forsook Him and fled.

a. You will be exposed for others to see: Gehazi – you don't have it!

b. Hopefully you will be exposed so you see yourself/others correctly:

1. **Luke 22:32** But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

### III. THE TRUE PATH

A. The true path of greatness is service

1. **V43** whoever desires to be great among you shall be your servant

a. How can I be a blessing to others? b. How can I be a blessing to the Kingdom of God?

2. **We serve because there are needs**

a. Whether you get attention/get the credit is not the issue – the needs of others/kingdom is the issue

3. **We serve to humble our pride and envy**

a. One of the most powerful things you can do is to try and help someone else succeed!

1. **1 Peter 5:5-6** Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."<sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,