

## **ULC Sermon Study Resource**

### ***Marks of Discipleship: Other Focus***

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**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Reading:** Matthew 20:20-28

#### **Outline:**

- I. To be “other focused” is countercultural (v20-23).
  - a. We live in a culture that believes the individual is primary. In media and marketing, everything is aimed at the wants, needs, and desires of the individual.
  - b. This isn't just an American thing, but a human thing; Jesus' own disciples James and John desired places of high honor and glory for themselves in eternity.
- II. Jesus' response to individualism (v25-28)
  - a. Greatness, honor and glory in the kingdom of God look like humble service and self-sacrifice.
  - b. Everything Jesus does is focused on serving, loving, and caring for others. He is glorified because he gave himself up.
- III. We're meant to live with a focus on others.
  - a. We fear that if we focus on others, we'll miss out on something for ourselves. In reality, the opposite is true.
  - b. We discover the truest sense of who we really are when we attach ourselves to serving, caring and giving ourselves away for others like Jesus did.

#### **Reflection/Application Questions:**

- 1) How do you try to maintain an “other focus” when life gets busy?
- 2) Have you ever felt like James and John? Do you seek and enjoy power, authority, and recognition in your life? Are these things inherently bad?
- 3) Where are you serving now?
- 4) Are we always to do things for others? What about when we have our own responsibilities to take care of? How do you find that balance in your life?
- 5) Living a life with a focus on others can be tiring. What are some ways you can rest in Jesus and be restored in the midst of your service?

#### **Suggestions for further reading:**

- Mark 9:33-37
- John 13:1-20
- Romans 12:9-21
- Philippians 2:1-11