

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

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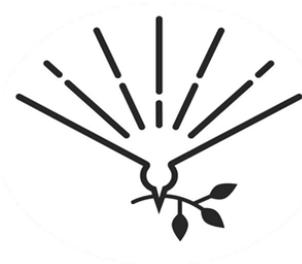


Chasing Hope: How Ordinary People Make Extraordinary Disciples

Session 3 - Privileged: The Sons of Zebedee

About Privilege – Day 1

1. This week we're going to be talking about the sense of privilege and entitlement that shows up in the accounts of two of Jesus' disciples: James and John. We'll see that privilege is not a bad thing when it is directed away from selfish gain and toward the love of God and neighbor. What (or who) comes to mind when you think of privilege?
2. Consider these words of Jesus in Luke 12:48: "*From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*" What does this teach us about privilege?
3. How is the biblical understanding of privilege different from the ways privilege is discussed in our culture?
4. In what ways do you consider yourself "privileged" and how are you using your privilege to be a blessing to God and to the people around you?



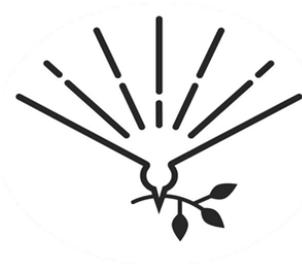
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The Requests of James and John, and Jesus' Response – Day 4

1. Let's look at Mark 10:35-40 and Matthew 20:20-23. Describe what happened in these two accounts, and identify the similarities and differences between them.
2. What do you think was so wrong about the requests that James and John made in Mark 10 and their mother, Salome, made in Matthew 20?
3. Look at Mark 10:41 and Matthew 20:24. How did the other disciples respond to their requests, and why? What does this tell you about the impact that mishandled privilege and a sense of entitlement can have on relationships?
4. How did Jesus respond to their requests, and to the anger felt by the other disciples? Read Mark 10:42-45.
5. The privileges and benefits James and John enjoyed were God-given, as are all the privileges we enjoy today. According to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, whether you're rich or poor, male or female, American or not - you're the undeserving recipient of all the benefits of God - the gifts of life, love, and His forgiveness. How have you benefited directly from the privileges of being a child of God, and what are you doing with the gifts He has given you?



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How James and John Responded to Jesus - Day 6

1. We know a lot less about “Big James” than we do about his little brother, John. That’s probably because, while John lived a long life (he was the only apostle *not* to be martyred), James was the first of the 12 to be executed for his faith. Read Acts 12:1-2. These events likely took place after the year 41 AD, about eleven years *after* the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. What does this tell you about James’ commitment to Jesus?

2. Because John lived a longer life, during which he wrote five New Testament books and cared for Mary after Jesus’ death (John 19:26-27), we know much more about his response to Jesus’ teachings. Read 1 John 4:7-21. John wrote these words in his old age. What difference do you think Jesus made in his life to turn him from being the self-seeking opportunist we see in Mark 10:35-40 to being the man who coined the phrase, “God is love”?

3. What difference has Jesus made in your life so far? How are your priorities and your character being reshaped by his Truth?