

**Service Over Hubris**

- Know what wrd hubris means? Heard/used wrd before? Grk wrd trnsfrd to Eng. Means: pride; excssv, ovrbrng pride, arrgnc, ovrenfdnc; being conceitd, selfish, self-cntrd; when thnk too highly self, thnk bttr others; abslt opp humlty; it's ugly sin/pride – that's hubris. All kinds exmpls: when cowkr/boss condscndngly talks how good/gifted she is; when high profile athlete talks how: he's best; his ungrtfl team doesn't realize how good have it w/him; when arrgnt politcn slams oppnnt, claims have soltn ev prob facng socty – all that: hubris. You do not want ppl think of you as woman/man of hubris.
- Yet in today's Gos, 2 J's discs, J&J, put on nasty display/hubris. We'd like think them: humble, godly fshrmn J calld, who left nets, dedctd lives to J. But today we get this: **vs. 35b**. Want you do wht we tell you do. Woah! Really?! You want treat J like genie/lamp, obeys coms, grants wishes? You want look J in face, tell jump; him say how high? Really? **Vs. 35b**. I just can't imagn sayng that to anyone, let alone J! But wait, worse: **vs. 37**. They're picturng J seatd on throne/hvn; want sit next; want evone see 2 sons Zeb flankng King hvn/earth. And if not engh, get this: **vs. 38-39a**. We can, want to, will! Hubris: excssv pride, arrgnc, self-cntrd conceit. Almst uncomf read this – **vs. 35b**! Then read Gos/Mt: mother invlvd; wantd also J glrffy sons. No wondr: **vs. 41**. Can't blame! Not finest hr, as J&J display unbridled hubris.
- Espcly given contxt. J had just explnd: **vs. 33b-44**. He's explng to them his very missn; they jump right to: we want in on glory! Smthng to note: in Gos/Mk (& Mt & Lk), 3 "passn predctns," where J spcfcly explns: going to Jrslm to suffer/die. This is 3<sup>rd</sup>. And after each/3: always nasty display/hubris. Mk 8, predctd dth; Pt: No J, not what shld hap, not what you shld do; bad plan; I have better plan – hubris. Mk 9, predctd dth again; discs argue who's greatst (PKR prchd ~mo ago). Now here Mk 10, still focused on greatnss, status, prestige. Hubris; no humlty here! Don't even undrstnd wht sayng. J's "bap" here: his suf/dth cross. "Cup" he'd drink: wrath/God for all wckdnss of all ppl, incl them/us – remem in Gthsmn J: Fr, take cup fr me – that's cup they think can drink. And sitting at R/L? Just wait til see J lifted up on cross; then look/see who's R/L. Want be one/them? J here: detailng his missn as Sav/wrld & dth/cross. And all they're concerned re is personal glory. Shocking, bec: hubris.
- But before I'm too critcl of J&J, also have look inside & be shockd by hubris in own hrt. I have same pridfl, arrgnt sinful nature J&J had; you do too; we all do. Take honest look at own life & find hubris. When do you: think too highly of self; think you desrve more for thngs done; look down on others & feel like better than they are; focus on self & neglot needs othrs; find self tendng towrd arrgnc/conceit? And if deny you think/act this way, proves your hubris. These: ugly charctr traits, and we don't want ppl seeing that side of us. But if we're honst, hubris has just as strong a hold on our hrts as on anyone else.
- Which is why J, w/patnce & grace, tchs discs/us imp lessn on humlty, on SOH. **Vs. 42** – think Rom empire in which lived, where humlty not virtue but vice, and pridfl hubris just how got ahead in wrld. In distnct contrst, J: **vs. 43-44**. SOH – esp, J's service to us. **Vs. 45**. J came serve us. Today we don't really have servnts/slaves, like did back then. But when go restrnt: servers. They: take order, bring food, fill drinks, get what we need – serve us; place self beneath us so we can enjoy meal.
- J came serve us; placed self beneath us, in order save us. Didn't come **be served**: nvr bossd ppl arnd or demndd wait on him; nvr lookd down ppl or was spoke condscndngly to them; had no hubris. **Vs. 45ab**. Son/God, creator/unvrs, left home/hvn, surrdd by angels/glory, to come here earth, serve/wait on us, as srvnt. And in greatst act service us, J **vs. 45c**. Ransom means smone held hostg; paymnt reqrd to free hostg. We were those hostgs, held captv by sin/dth/dvl. But J paid price! Luth Cat: holy/precis bld, inncnt suff/dth – paid ransom price set us free. J: suffrng servnt Sav of Isa 53 (1<sup>st</sup> rdng): **"My righteous srvnt will jstfy many, and he will bear their iniqts... He poured out his life unto dth, and... bore the sin of many."** **Vs. 45** – for you/me. This: grace/Xp! He put SOH & servd us w/own life to give us etrn life.
- And J continus serve us day/day: angels; prayers; blesses w/evthng need body/life; fam, frnds, Xian fellwshp; strngthns us w/Wrd; wshs us in Bap; feeds us w/bdy/bld in HC; proms etrn life. J serves us!
- And that's why: we want follow his lead. We want be like J, serve othrs, put SOH. That's what tght us: **vs. 43b-44**. Means we, modeling J, place selves beneath others & serve them in humlty/love. And there's thsnd ways you can do this, in own life/way. I'm confdnt you'll have no trouble findng ways to be a servant: in fam, in cong, at wrk, among frnds, within commnty. Opprtns abound; don't have look

far. But all starts w/followng J's lead and putting SOH. Php 2 tells: **"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ:"** (IOW, imitate humility/Christ) **"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"** He did that for us! And that changes us! Christ: always our motivation! Christian service always starts w/Christ's service to us, and results in us putting SOH.

- J&J – not finest hour. But learned les. Jms: actually did drink cup/suffering; 1<sup>st</sup> of 12 apostles martyred for faith. And Jn: never martyred; but yrs later in bk 1 Jn would write: **"This is how we know what love is: Jesus laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers/sisters"** (3:16). That's putting SOH. I pray: these words today clearly show you love/Christ for you – that he forgives even sinful pride! – and that Christ's love for you would overflow in your life, in humble service to Lord and to one another.

### Mark 10:32-45

<sup>32</sup>They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. <sup>33</sup>"We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, <sup>34</sup>who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

<sup>35</sup>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."

<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, <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, "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. <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."

