

**Service Over Hubris**

- Know what wrd hubris means? Heard/used wrd before? Greek wrd, to Eng. Means: pride; excssv, ovrbrng pride, arrgnc, ovrcnfdnc; being conceitd, selfish, self-cntrd; when think too highly self, think better others; abslt opp humlty; it's ugly sin/pride – that's hubris. All kinds exmpls: when cwrkr or boss condscndngly talks how good/gifted she is; when high profile athlete talks how he's best, ungrtfl team doesn't realize how good have it w/him; when politcn slams oppnnt, claims have soltn ev prob facng socty – that's all prideful hubris. You do not want ppl think of you as man/woman of hubris.
- Yet in today's Gos, 2 J's discs, J&J, put on nasty display/hubris. We'd like think them as the 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 turn J into genie; rub lamp; obeys coms, gives wishes? You want tell J jump; him say how high? **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 in hvn; want sit next; want evone see two sons Zeb flankng King hvn/earth. And if not enough, get this: **vs. 38-39a**. We can, want to, will! Hubris: excssv pride, arrgnc, self-cntrd conceit. Almst uncomf read this – **vs. 35b!** Read Mt: mother invlvd; wantd J glrfy sons. No wondr: **vs. 41**. Can't blame! Not finest hr, as J&J as display unbridled hubris.
- Espcly given contxt. Right before this Gos, J had just explnd: handd over to Gentl rulers to be mockd, spit on, whippd, & killd, then he'd rise. He explng to them his very missn; they jump right to: we want in on glory! Smthng to note: in Gos Mk, 3 “passn predctns,” where J spcfcly explns: going to Jrslm to suffer/die. This is 3<sup>rd</sup>. And after each: ugly display/hubris. In Mk 8, predicts dth; Pt: No, not how this should go, not what you should do; that's bad plan; I have better plan. Then in Mk 9, predctd dth again; discs argue who's greatst (sermon few wks ago). Now here in 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 on cross pay sins wrld. “Cup” he'd drink: wrath/God for all wckdnss/sin all ppl, incl them/us. Remem in Gthsmn J: Fr, take cup from me – that's cup they think can drink. And sit at R/L? Just wait til see Son/Man lifted up on cross; then look who's R/L. Here J is detailng his missn as Sav/wrld and death on 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 them; focus on self & neglct needs othrs; find self tendng towrd arrgnc/conceit, even if try keep it a secret? These: ugly charctr traits, so we don't like 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.
- And so, in incrdbl patnce/grace, J tchs discs/us imp les on humlty, on SOH. **Vs. 42**. Think Rom empr in which lived, where humlty not virtue but vice, and pridfl hubris how got ahead life. In dirct contrst, J: **vs. 43-44**. SOH. Most impty: J's service us. **Vs. 45**. J came serve us. We don't really have servnts/slaves, like did back then. But when go restrnt: servers. They: take order, bring food, make sure drinks filled, 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 round or demndd wait on him; nvr lookd down ppl or was condscndng when spoke them; had no hubris. **Vs. 45...to serve**. Here have creatr/unvrs, leavng home/hvn, surrdd by angels/glory, to come here earth, serve/wait us, as servant. And in greatst act service us, J “**gave life ransom many**.” Ransom means smone held hostg; paymnt reqrd to free hostg. We: those hostgs, held captive by sin/dth/dvl. But J paid price – holy/precs bld, inncnt suff/dth (Luth Cat) – paid ransom price to set us free. J is suffrng servnt of Isa 53 (1<sup>st</sup> les): “**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. What grace is this! He put SOH, and served us w/salvtn.
- And 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 etrnl life. Serves us.

- Which is why: we want follow his lead. We want be like J, serve othrs, put SOH. That's what taught us: **vs. 43b-44**. Means we place selves beneath others & serve them in humlty/love. And there's thousnd ways you can do that, in own lives/ways. I'm confdnt you'll have no trouble findng ways be a servant: in fam, in cong, at wrk, among frnds, within commnty. Opprtns abound; just have find. And all starts w/follwng J's lead and putting SOH. Php 2 tells how: **"Do nothing out of selfsh ambtion or vain conceit. Rather, in humlty value othrs above yourslvs, not lookng to your own intrsts but each of you to the intrsts of the othrs. In your reltnshps w/oa, have the same mindset as CJ:"** (so imitate humlty/Xp) **"Who, being in very nature God, did not consdr eqilty w/God smthng to be used to his own advntg; rather, he made hmslf nothng by takng the very nature of a servnt, being made in human liknss. And being found in apprnc as a man, he humbl'd hmslf by becomng obednt to dth—even dth on a cross!"** For us! What grace is this! Xp is our motvtn! Xian service always starts w/Xp's service to us, and reslts in us putng SOH.
- J&J – not finest hour. But learned les. Jms: did drink from cup; 1<sup>st</sup> of 12 apstls martyrd for faith. And Jn: yrs later in book of 1 Jn, would write: **"This is how we know what love is: JC laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our bros/siss" (3:16)**. That's putting SOH. And today I pray: HS'd show you so clearly love/Xp for you – he forgives even your sinful pride! – that Xp's love for you would overflow in your life, in humble service to Lord and to oa.

### Mark 10:35-45

<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."

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