

Lesson II.

GREATNESS THROUGH SERVICE

July 12, 1914

Mark 10 : 32-45—Memory Verses, 43-45.

Golden Text—The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.—Mark 10 : 45.



their great ones exercise authority upon them.

43 But so shall it not be among you : but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister :

44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

32 And they were in the way going up to Jeru'salem ; and Je'sus went before them : and they were amazed ; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,

33 *Saying*, Behold, we go up to Jeru'salem ; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes ; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles :

34 And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him : and the third day he shall rise again.

35 And James and John, the sons of Zeb'edee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.

36 And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you ?

37 They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.

38 But Je'sus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask : can ye drink of the cup that I drink of ? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with ?

39 And they said unto him, We can. And Je'sus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of ; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized :

40 But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give ; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.

41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John.

42 But Je'sus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gen'tiles exercise lordship over them ; and

THE LESSON RETOLD

Jesus had been carrying a secret in His heart. It was sad news, and He kept it away from His disciples. But He knew the time for telling these nearest friends of His had come. He gathered them round about Him and said:

"We are on our way to Jersualem. I, your master, will have many things to suffer when we come to the city. Those who are My enemies soon will take Me away from you." Then He told them how His life was to be taken away. He was to be given into the hands of His bitter enemies, the chief priests and scribes, and those would condemn Him to be put to death. Then the Romans, who ruled at that time over Palestine, would take Him and mock Him and scourge Him and spit upon Him and at last kill Him. It was to give His life for the sake of others that Jesus had come from the heavenly home. But, while Jesus was thus to be put to a cruel death, He was to lie in

the grave only a very short time. After three days He was to rise again and go back to heaven.

This secret that Jesus told His disciples frightened them, and made them sad. They sorrowfully followed on toward the great city.

Presently, as they walked along, James and John drew nearer to Jesus. They said, "Master, wilt Thou do what we ask of Thee?"

Jesus answered, "What would ye that I should do for you?"

They said, "When Thou art ruling in Thy kingdom, let one of us sit at Thy right hand and one at Thy left."

James and John loved Jesus dearly. They wanted to be very near Him always. They wanted to serve Him. Perhaps they thought they could serve better in these high places. But to ask for the best places for themselves was selfish.