

**Catching Up With The Radical Rabbi Sermon Series**  
**"The Radical Rabbi Who Bucked Conventional Wisdom"**  
*by Rev. John C. Tittle*

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 10:35-45 NRSV

<sup>35</sup> James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." <sup>36</sup> And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" <sup>37</sup> And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." <sup>38</sup> But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" <sup>39</sup> They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; <sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

<sup>41</sup> When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.<sup>42</sup> So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>43</sup> But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What jumps out at you in the passage?
2. If you could ask of Jesus anything, what would you ask?
3. What emotions did you have when you read the request of James and John?
4. Jesus said, ""You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them." Where in history or today do you see this type of leadership in action? What about in church history or the present?
5. Where do you see a little bit of "James and John" or "the drum major instinct" in your life? Why is it so easy to fall into that rather than choosing Jesus' way?
6. What is the cup and the baptism that Jesus mentioned?
7. How are we to be different in our leadership as followers of Christ? What does it look like to "serve, not be served" in our homes, workplace, church, or government service?