

JESUS WARNS AGAINST

“SELF”-FOCUS

Matthew 20:20-28

(Mark 10:35-45)

I. James, John And Their Mother Seek Status—vs.20-21

Matthew 23:6

II. Jesus Redirects Their Focus Toward Sacrifice—22-23

Matthew 26:39

Matthew 20:18-19

2 Corinthians 4:17

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

Matthew 5:10-11

Matthew 26:56

III. The Other Ten Become Self-Seeking – vs. 24

Mark 9:33-34

Luke 22:24

IV. Worldly Practices Of Self-Focus Exposed – vs.25

Katakyrieuō - 1. to bring under one's power, to subject one's self, to subdue, master. 2. to hold in subjection, to be master of, exercise lordship over.

1 Peter 5:1-4

Katexousiazō – 1. oppression which is immanent in all earthly power. 2. tyrant

V. True Greatness Comes From Selflessness - vs.26-27

Proverbs 21:4

Proverbs 16:5

1 John 2:16

Isaiah 23:9

Daniel 4:37

Proverbs 15:33

Psalms 10:17

Colossians 3:12

Ephesians 4:1-2

Exodus 3:11

Genesis 32:10

2 Chronicles 32:26

2 Chronicles 33:12

Matthew 3:11

Matthew 10:37-18

John 18:36

“Today the first and greatest commandment is. “Thou shalt love thyself.”. And the explanation for almost every interpersonal problem is thought to lie in someone’s low self-esteem. Sermons, articles, and books have pushed this idea into the Christian mind. It is a rare congregation, for example, that does not stumble over the “vermicular theology” of Isaac Watts’ “Alas! And did my Saviour bleed”; “Would He devote that sacred head/For such a worm as I?” – *John Piper*

Servant and slave - *diakonos and doulos*

1 Thessalonians 2:6, 14

1 Corinthians 4:8-13

Romans 1:1

Romans 14:8

1 Corinthians 6:20

Acts 20:28

1 Peter 1:18-19

Luke 17:10

VI. The Son of Man Patterned True Greatness – vs. 28

Philippians 2:6-9

Romans 8:1-3

"Two cities have been formed by two loves: the earthly by the love of self, even to the contempt of God; the heavenly by the love of God, even to the contempt of self. The former, in a word, glories in itself. The latter in the Lord." - *Augustine*

"For so blindly do we all rush in the direction of self-love that everyone thinks he has a good reason for exalting himself and despising all others in comparison. There is no other remedy than to pluck up by the roots those most noxious pests, self-love and love of victory, this the doctrine of Scripture does. For it teaches us to remember that the endowments which God has bestowed upon us are not our own but His free gifts and that those who plume themselves upon them betray their ingratitude," – *John Calvin*

"The cross of popular evangelicalism is not the cross of the New Testament. It is, rather, a bright ornament upon the bosom of self-assured and carnal Christian whose hands are indeed the hands of Abel, but whose voice is the voice of Cain. The old cross slew men, the new cross entertains them. The old cross condemned, the new cross assures. The old cross destroyed confidence in the flesh, the new cross encourages it. The old cross brought tears and blood, the new cross brings laughter. The flesh, smiling and confident, preaches and sings about the cross. Before that cross it bows and toward that cross it points with carefully staged historionics but upon that cross it will not die and the reproach of that cross, it stubbornly refuses to bear,"

Closing Thought: The self-focused “Christian”, is not an adopted child of The King. Self-love, self-esteem, self-advancement are not the concerns of God’s people. Those with true, saving faith, will humble themselves to be a servant and a slave to his brothers and sisters in Christ.