John: A Disciple Transformed

Joshua Creel · Mark 10:35–45

INTRODUCTION

- Mark chapter 10, what are James and John striving for? Greatness. Make us a cut above the rest of your followers.
- In 1 John chapter 1, what is John joyous over? That I am in fellowship with you. That we now have in common a relationship in God through Christ.
- Where he ultimately found this great joy was to be in Christ Himself, to proclaim the message of Christ to others so that others could be in fellowship with God.

1 John Had to Learn to Focus on the Spiritual

Mark 10:32–34; Matthew 6:19–21; Ecclesiastes 2:11

- If John was ever going to lay hold of fulfillment and joy, he was going to have to rid himself of the concept that what we are looking for is something here on this earth.
- These things I've spoken to you so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation.
- Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, where thieves do not break in or steal, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- Gratitude and thankfulness has to have an object to it.
- Now, instead of focusing on what he was going to attain in this life, it was now focused on the spiritual pursuit of serving the Lord, of serving his people, of spreading the gospel.
- We've got to get our focus where it's supposed to be.

2 He Suffered, But He Attained Glory

Mark 10:38–39; 1 John 3:13; 1 John 5:1–4

- The cup that I drink you shall drink, and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized.
- He gave his life to God and to Christ, and he suffered for it. But in doing so, he attained glory.
- Those who follow Christ will suffer for Christ.
- Do not be surprised that the world hates you. Don't be surprised.
- But be faithful to God. Serve God. And glory awaits.
- For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world, our faith.

3 He Learned the True Measure of Greatness

Mark 10:42–44; 1 John 1:1–4

- Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.

- Here is your path to greatness. You serve.
- His great joy had come because he had begun to serve. He had made himself a servant of all of men to bring them the gospel.
- The greatest sense of accomplishment in life is not over things that we have done, it is over people who we have helped.
- And that is exactly what our Lord has called us to. To serve him by serving others.

4 Impressed With What Christ Did for Him

John 19:25–27; John 20; 1 John 3:1–3

- All this would not have happened if John had not finally and ultimately been impressed with what Christ did for him and for all of mankind.
- He was about to serve all of man by giving his life as a ransom for their sins.
- That's when you never again read about the apostles striving for individual greatness.
- Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- Be impressed with what God has done for you. Remember that your sins are forgiven in Christ. Don't live like the world.
- See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called children of God, and such we are.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are you impressed with what our God has done for you, with what your Lord did for you as he gave his life on the cross for your sins?**

MY NOTES