



THE WEEKLY COMPASS

Devotion

A Ransom of Many

"41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. 42 And Jesus called them to him and said to them, **"You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."** (Mark 10:41-45 ESV)

Main Topic

Passionately Ambitious!

We are all witnessing the fallout of selfish and ambitious minds. There are leaders who hold positions of power but desire even greater control. In ancient times, some Kings declared themselves gods; now, presently, a President is declaring himself a king. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, "Ambition is an ardent desire for rank, fame, or power." In our text, James and John ask Jesus for a position of honor in His Kingdom. Mark states, "And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory' (Mark 10:37, ESV).

Kingdom ambition is marked by humility of service, not by selfish ambition. Ambition is not a condemned attribute. Aspire to be a great doctor, lawyer, judge, musician, etc., with whatever talent God has blessed you with. Don't let your life's successes cloud the view of your Christian faith. Jesus explained that greatness is not about being over others but rather about self-giving and humble service (Mark 10:43).

In closing, Isaiah stated, "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound" (Isaiah 61:1, ESV). So, despite your ambition and passion for excellence in your profession, serve God and His people with the talent(s) He has blessed you with.

Questions:

1. What have you done in service to God's Kingdom?
2. How would you describe your ambitions?

Unified Topic: Christ's Once-for-All Sacrifice

Sunday School Lesson For

April 6, 2025

Sunday School Title

It Only Takes One

Sunday School Scripture

Hebrews 9:23-28, 10:2-4, 11-14, 19-22

Main Thought:

For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Hebrews 9:24, (KJV)

Closing Prayer:

Dear Father, thank you for allowing us to see another day. Thank you, Lord, for our health and strength. Lord, forgive us of our sins and help us to align our ambitions to the humility and service of your Kingdom. God, please teach us and give us an understanding of how to apply our talents to your heavenly mission. Thanks for your grace and mercy, in Jesus' name, Amen!

