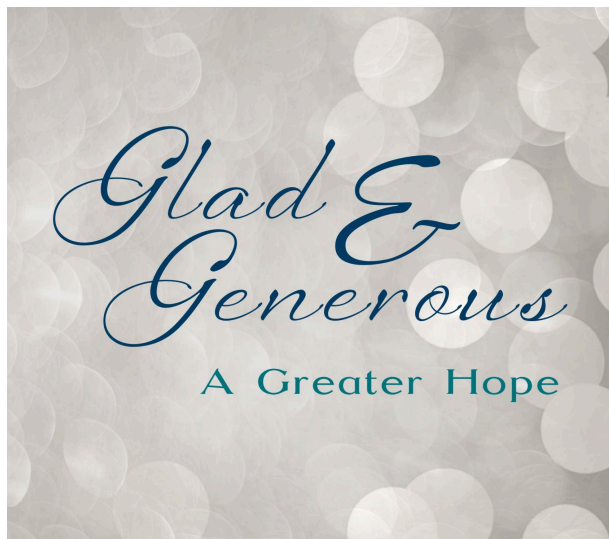


GLAD & GENEROUS: A GREATER HOPE

September 28, 2025

Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister



Mark 10:35-45

³⁵ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' ³⁶ And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' ³⁷ And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' ³⁸ 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?' ³⁹ 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; ⁴⁰ 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.'

⁴¹ When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴² 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. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. When James and John ask Jesus to sit in positions of prominence next to him, they are asking for a share of the power, authority, and glory they think is coming. They are revealing their expectation: Jesus will displace Roman power from Jerusalem, and Jesus will become the new political leader. What do you think it means that Jesus says, "You don't know what you are asking"? When did Jesus become king (see Mark 15:25-26),

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and what is happening to the person on his right hand and left hand (Mark 15:27)?

3. Jesus makes mention of an ancient reality with an enduring truth: many leaders are tempted to exploit their position and power for personal gain. In today's world, how might a work boss, coach, politician, church leader, teacher, or parent/guardian "lord over" (v. 42) those they are entrusted to lead?
4. What is it about a good leader that inspires hope? Jesus teaches his disciples that leadership is about serving, not "lording". What does inspiring leadership look like at home, at work, at school, in church, or in everyday life?
5. Reflect on an inspiring leader who impacted you. What did they do, and what did you learn from them?
6. What have you learned about leadership from Jesus?
7. Are there leadership books, podcasts, or resources that have helped you become a better leader?
8. How can a faith community like South Elkhorn grow this inspiring servant-leadership for work in and beyond the church?

GLAD & GENEROUS

Stewardship Campaign

Every fall, the South Elkhorn church family prayerfully discerns both the ministry God is calling us to in the coming year and how we will financially support this ministry with our tithes and offerings.

Giving cards that record estimates of giving for the coming year are used by the finance team to develop a responsible and faithful budget. The budget is then presented for congregational approval at the December congregational meeting.

You can submit a giving card to the offering plate during worship, mail it to the church office, or you can send an email to South Elkhorn's Financial Administrator with your planned weekly/monthly/annual gift. Email:

[**Gayle@SouthElkhornCC.org**](mailto:Gayle@SouthElkhornCC.org)

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