



Ambition

Ambition is the deep desire to make your life count for something.



The Ambition We All Have

35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up 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 do 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 Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"



Jesus does a masterful job of not crushing their ambition, but redirecting their ambition.



Mark 10:43

Whoever would be **great** among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.

Matthew 5:19

Whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments... will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called **great** in the kingdom of heaven.



That deep longing you have for your life to matter is God-given.
It is woven into the way God created you.

"The desire to excel is not a sin." - J. Oswald Sanders



The Ambition That Corrupts Us

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The disciples misunderstand Jesus' glory
The disciples misunderstand the cup and baptism.



There are two very different ways to pursue glory.

Selfish Ambition - A pursuit of one's own glory.
Spiritual Ambition - A pursuit of God's glory.



Mark 10

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.



When we seek our own glory, power becomes the tool we use to get it.

- We become power-hungry.
- We use authority to dominate others.
- The strong take advantage of the weak.
- The powerful exploit the vulnerable.

And whenever someone threatens our status or our position, we become desperate to protect it.

We protect our glory at all costs.



Mark 10:43-44

But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.



When we seek our own glory, power becomes the tool we use to get it.

- We become power-hungry.
- We use authority to dominate others.
- The strong take advantage of the weak.
- The powerful exploit the vulnerable.

When we seek God's glory, power becomes a tool to serve others.

- We have a healthy relationship with power.
- We use authority to serve others up.
- The strong care for the weak.
- The powerful protect the vulnerable.



When we seek our own glory

Whenever someone threatens our status or our position, we become desperate to protect it.

We protect our glory at all costs.

When we seek God's glory

And when our status or position is threatened, we are not defensive.

Because we are not concerned about our glory.



Warning

They started thinking less about serving Jesus and more about how Jesus might serve them.

It's easy for our relationship with God to become mixed with self-interest. Or worse, for our self-interest to disguise itself as devotion to God.

It is possible to follow Jesus and still be chasing our own glory.



The Ambition That Leads to True Greatness

43... 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."



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First, we are in bondage.

Second, Jesus paid the price for our freedom

Mark

