

E-Series

Me Church



35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." 36 "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. 37 They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." 38 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" 39 "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, 40 but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." 41 When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. 42 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." –Mark 10:35-45

Apparently there is an epidemic in Prosperity. I'm not sure if it's bunions or corns or what, but since Sunday at least a dozen people have told me that their feet or toes are hurting.

Or maybe it has to do with the "Me Church." If you weren't able to join us on Sunday, you can see the video that opened the sermon time by clicking [here \(Me Church.\)](#)

We live in a "Me Culture." We have iPods that make us the kings and queens of our own musical universes, where we call all the shots, where we can listen to whatever we want to listen to whenever we want to listen to it. Burger King tells us that we can have "our way right away." Advertisers and retailers clamor to figure out what we want and then break their necks to sell it to us. I, I, I. Me, me, me. That is our culture, and it's hard to keep that mentality from consuming our perception of the church as well.

The picture above is a painting of Narcissus. In Roman Mythology, Narcissus was a handsome young man. A nymph named Echo fell in love with Narcissus, but her love was unrequited. In fact, she was flatly dismissed by Narcissus. That would be the end of that story were it not for Nemesis, the goddess of retribution. Taking note of his ill treatment of Echo, Nemesis punished Narcissus by causing him to fall deeply in love with his own reflection as he knelt to drink water from a pond. For the rest of his miserable life Narcissus revolved around his reflection, he was in love with himself. He died orbiting his own reflection.

Narcissus is where we get our word "[narcissism.](#)" It means egocentric, self-centered, selfish. A narcissist has a hard time thinking beyond him or herself. They always look out for number one. They seek the limelight, want to be in charge, vigorously protect their turf, and do what they must to get their way. Me, me, me. I, I, I.

James and John are guilty of narcissism in our passage from Mark. "Teacher, we want **you** to do **whatever we** ask." It's hard to imagine saying that to anybody, much less Jesus. "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." In other words, "Jesus, when you become king, will you hook us up? Will you make us important? Will you take care of us? Will you give us some big position of authority, power and honor? Will you give us our way right away?"

In what ways have you been guilty of falling into the Me Mentality? Has the Burger King motto even crept into your views and ideas about church? Has your ability to see the big picture (God's kingdom picture) been affected by our narcissistic culture?

Take a moment and ponder Jesus' response to James and John. What can we learn from his response?

Trying Not To Seek My Way Right Away,

Pastor Michael