

## E-Series

### Me Church (Continued)



**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

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On Sunday I told you about one of the churches I served before coming to Wightman. It was called Liberty Chapel UMC. That name is somewhat ironic because the sanctuary was built in 1835, by people who didn't have much liberty. But, it's a beautiful building. The bricks were made on site. The craftsmanship is superb. Before termites got into the floor, there wasn't a single nail in it. It was all made with tongue and groove boards and with wooden pegs. Beautiful, well crafted building.

If you look back in the historical records to try and find out who built it, you'll easily find the name of the guy who gave the money and the land. But, he didn't really build that sanctuary. If you look hard enough, you can even find the name of the architect. But, the architect didn't build it either.

You won't find the names of the builders, because that stunningly built, well-crafted edifice was built by slaves. You won't find their names, because slaves don't work for recognition. Don't get me wrong. Slavery was a horrible, sinful institution. But it's true that slaves don't work for recognition. Servants don't serve for fame or fortune. Servants don't serve to get the best seat or the lead role or the chair-person's job. Servants don't serve to have their egos stroked or to get their way or so that they will be seen. Servants don't serve to have their needs met or to "get something out of it." Servants serve because they see the bigger picture. They work for the bigger picture, even when that's not the best thing for them. Servants serve because they recognize that the universe is huge and realize how they fit into a small piece of it. Servants serve because they know that the world doesn't revolve around them. Servants serve because they realize that the church is bigger than they are. Servants know that they are not a part of ME Church. They know that they are a part of THE Church, the Body of Christ, a body that is much bigger than the sum of its parts.

And Jesus said that if we want to be great, we have to be that servant.

Another thing we did on Sunday was pray John Wesley's Covenant Prayer. Since a couple of you have asked me for that, I'll share it with you here. May we all make this our daily prayer.

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine.  
So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.

Seeking to Serve,  
Pastor Michael

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