

Oct. 18, 2015 "Getting Things Backward" based on Mark 10:35-45

Introduction: Ridiculous story to expose basic emotion – the drive to be the best, number 1

James and John sought to have Jesus give them 'seats of honor' in his future kingdom.

- Natural desire, after commitment and loyalty to expect something in return
- Jesus asked them if they were able to bear the consequences
- They said they were able, not knowing what that meant
- In actuality, all the disciples scattered when the time came. They wanted rewards without the suffering, Easter without Good Friday, the crown without the cross

We all find it hard to accept Jesus' complete reversal of values

- Lives to be measured by service rendered to others
- Disciples changed after Easter and Pentecost. All eventually died martyr's death for their faith
- With Jesus' help, perhaps we can say, "We are able!" We're not perfect, but if common people like James and John can be molded into disciples, maybe God can do the same for us.

Illustration of Christmas lights wound up being put up backwards. James and John got things backwards, as we often do, but we can maybe learn the lesson that whoever aspires to be great, must be a servant, to be first we must be willing to help our neighbor in need!