The Request Jesus Refused To Answer

Mark 10:35-45

Intro. [A]: We are often told that God will give us anything that we want.

1. This is a part of the heretical “Prosperity Gospel.”
2. Paul did say, Phil. 4:6: “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”
3. This is seen by some as a “blank check.”

B. James and John made a request to Jesus.

Vs. 35 1. “Desire” = ἔπηθυμα = a longing, yearning, denotes inward passion and mental desire.
2. “... we want you to grant us a special request.”

Matt. 20:20 3. Their mother was involved in this request.

C. The reply of Jesus.

Vs. 36 1. “What would ye that I should do for you”?
2. “What do you want me to do”?

I. James and John Specify Their Request.

Vs. 37 1. “They said unto him, Grant unto us… = ἔδώρησέν τοι to give, present, to give freely, unforced, to yield, commit
2. “that we may sit, one on the right hand, and the other on the left hand.”
3. “... in thy glory.”

3. Why this request? They had been with Him on the mount of transfiguration. 9:1-10

4. They knew that seeing Him on the mount had something to do with His statement about rising from the dead. Vs. 31, 9:10
43a. Jesus places a negative on this.

B. The ideal attitude.
Vs. 43b 11. "... whosoever will be great among you,
shall be your minister." Diakonos = "an attendant,
"waiter at a table" "to give service to another"
This is not a capital "M"!
Vs. 44 12. "And whosoever of you will be the chiefest,
shall be servant of all".
3. "chiefest" = πρῶτος = the first, foremost
14. "servant" = δούλος = a slave, one bound to
serve, one whose will and abilities are wholly at the
service of another.

C. The mission and example of Jesus.
Vs. 45 11. Jesus did not come to be waited on by
slaves and flunkies. He came to serve God.
2. "ransom" = λυτρόν = "the price paid for
letting loose or setting free".