

THINKING BIBLICALLY ABOUT POWER & CONTROL

August 2, 2015 Mark 10:35-45 by Bob Branch
Thinking Biblically about Money, Sex and Power

BIG IDEA: Thinking Biblically about Power and Control... that is, we tend toward taking matters into our own hands, instead of trusting God to work on our behalf.

“She’s my sister” (Gen. 12; 20); Abe & Ishmael (Gen. 16); Turn to Egypt for help (Is. 31:1); David & Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11-12); Peter’s ear incident (Mt. 26:51); Ananias & Sapphira (Acts 5); Revelation—devil all about power and control.

Why control? Why exercise power?

Insecure.

Fear. Mistrust in others. Pride. Self-Indispensability. Self-Worth. Feel out of control. Others won’t let us have any control of our lives. Coached to control by our culture.

This plays out in almost every Real-World area.

Marriage, Parenting, Marketplace, Internet, Politics, Government, Knowledge, Leadership, Money, Weight.

This works itself into...?

Bossy... Dogmatic... Possessive/obsessive... Lord it over... Position oriented; scramble & keep, Controlling... Control freaks... Show of strength/dominance...

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** (Mt. 20:20-28)

DIAGNOSIS: The world’s way, and our natural inclination, is to think first of ourselves, go for position, and use that position for our own interests.

“You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.” (42)

- **Position**
- **Lord it over**
- **Exercise authority over**

Jesus’ antidote to power and control is cultivating a servant identity and actively serving others.

“whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all” (43-44)

You were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. **Galatians 5:13** (1 Peter 4:10)

Jesus is the model for this, trusting the Father, giving his life for others, serving in a way that releases the best for others.

Philippians 2:3-11

1. Servanthood trusts the Father (rather than ourselves) for favor, blessing, success and being raised up.
2. Servanthood is giving, and giving, & giving our lives.
3. Servanthood’s aim is to release the best for others.

Ticket of admission: Surrender