



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 20 October 2024



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



In Mark 10:35-45, we encounter a fascinating exchange between Jesus and two of His closest disciples, James and John. They come to Him with a bold request: **“Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”** It’s a request that sounds a lot like something we’d hear from a child asking their parents for a special favour—“I have a question for you but promise me you’ll say yes!” What they want is to sit at Jesus’ right and left hand in His glory, positions of honour in the coming Kingdom. James’ and John’s request isn’t just about seeking status; it reflects a misunderstanding of what true greatness looks like in God’s Kingdom.

Jesus’ response to them is both gentle and challenging. He doesn’t immediately shut down their request. Instead, He leads them deeper into the heart of discipleship: **“You don’t know what you are asking,”** He tells them. **“Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”** James and John, full of confidence, reply, **“We can.”** Little do they know the depth of what they are committing to. The “cup” Jesus speaks of is one of suffering and sacrifice, a path that will lead to His death on the cross.

Perhaps they imagined themselves ruling alongside Jesus in a grand palace, enjoying the fruits of leadership—comfort, recognition, even power. But Jesus quickly flips this notion on its head. **“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.”**

This is a radical redefinition of greatness. In the world, greatness is often associated with power, control, and being served by others. But in God’s Kingdom, greatness is measured by humility, service, and sacrificial love. Jesus Himself provides the ultimate example: **“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.”** The path to glory in God’s Kingdom doesn’t bypass suffering—it goes

through it.

James and John would eventually learn this lesson. After Jesus’ death and resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, they became pillars of the early church. James, the first of the apostles to be martyred, drank the cup of suffering, just as Jesus said. John, who lived to an old age, dedicated his life to proclaiming the Gospel and serving the early Christian community. Although John escaped martyrdom and lived to old age he didn’t escape suffering because of his testimony about Jesus he was exiled to the barren prison island of Patmos. James’ and John’s understanding of greatness changed, as they embraced the way of the cross and followed Jesus in humble service.

For us today, this passage challenges us to reconsider our own understanding of success and greatness. Do we, like James and John, sometimes seek the benefits of following Jesus without fully grasping the cost? Are we looking for recognition, influence, or comfort in our faith, while overlooking the call to serve others?

The good news is that Jesus doesn’t call us to serve alone. He has already walked the path of suffering and sacrifice for us, giving His life as a ransom for our sins. As we follow Him, He empowers us by His Spirit and unites us in love with our brothers and sisters in Christ to serve others with the same self-giving love He and His first disciples did. Greatness in God’s Kingdom comes not from being served, but from serving. It’s found not in seeking our own glory, but in laying down our lives for the sake of others.

As we reflect on this passage, let us ask ourselves: How can we follow Jesus’ example of servanthood in our daily lives? Where is God calling us to lay down our own desires for the sake of others? And how can we embrace the true path to greatness—the path of humble service and sacrificial love?

Grace and peace
Rev. Aaron

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Acknowledgement of country

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Today’s Bible Readings

Isaiah 53:4-12
Mark 10:35-45

What's Happening This Week

Today	Chaira Companions 1.30pm
Tuesday	Mainly Music 9.30am
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
Saturday	Men's Breakfast 8am

Other upcoming events for your diary

Mainly Music	29 October 9.30am
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat	30 October 9.30am
Craft Club	1 November 9am
Pastoral Care Meeting	8 November 10.15am
Elder's Meeting	12 November 4.30pm
Fellowship Lunch	13 November 12 Noon
Chaira Companions	17 November 12 Noon
Church Fete	23 November 8am
Men's Breakfast	30 November 8am
BCC Family Fun Day	7 December 3pm

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Kids' Church	Jane	Lynn
Duty Elder	Robyn	Audrey
Organist/Pianist	Audrey	Jill & Mel
Greeters	Lorraine S & Joan C	Joyce & Lynn
Bible Readers	Joyce & Sylvia	Neil & Dudley
Prayers for Others	Joyce	Mel
Morning Tea	Vai & Terryll	Mary & Chris
Hall Set Up	Craft Club	Marshall
Sound Room	Nigel	Ross
Cleaning	Craft Club	Aaron & Jane

If you are unable to do your roster, **please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.**

Men's Breakfast

Meeting for breakfast at 8am on Saturday 26 October at the Twisted Fig Café (near Bunnings in Tweed Heads South), then on to our church hall for Carpet Bowls.

All men are welcome.

Kids' Church

Term 4 of Kids' Church start back today. This term it will be on a 'Pop Up' basis, i.e. it will happen when 3 or more kids are in attendance. Please do all you can to spread the message, so that this very worthwhile activity is able to continue and hopefully thrive in future.

Mainly Music



mainly music This is probably our largest and most successful outreach programme, and it has been running for many years. It is a joyous occasion, which is greatly enjoyed by many parents and carers and lots of kids. It starts back with term 4 this Tuesday. **However it is struggling due to a lack of volunteers, and this has been exacerbated in recent months by the loss of a number of volunteers. Lynn and her team are crying out for help, which they will need if it is to continue successfully. Please think about volunteering, and please do talk to Lynn to find out more, and see if you can provide some assistance. Your help would be very much appreciated.**

There Is Support Available

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support please let us know and how we can help by calling either;

Rev. Aaron: 0411 325 527

or Your Pastoral Carer

Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community.

Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point, it allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week or if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church (Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611 **Account No:** 10120762