



## **SPRING SEMESTER**

**Sermon Series:** "And First Place Goes To..." (Idols)

**Series Description:** Idolatry is seeking security and meaning in someone or something other than God. It is worshipping anything that ought to be used OR using anything that is meant to be worshipped. God will put up with a great many things in the human heart, but there is one thing that He will not put up with in it—a second place. He who offers God a second place offers Him no place. Every one of us is, from his mother's womb, an expert in inventing idols, worshipping something other than God. Our aim in this series is to not only call out the idols in our lives but learn how the Gospel demolishes them.

**Sermon Scripture:** Mark 10:35-45

**Sermon Summary:** The idol of **fame** consists in two key elements: 1) Finding your value and worth in your achievements or abilities or track record; 2) The recognition of those achievements. This is the key to the idol of fame. It might not be by the masses with thunderous applause, but you are looking for applause from *someone*.

It's public estimation. It's popularity. It's reputation. It's recognition from someone else for your notable achievements. You might not want to stand on stage in the lights, but do you ever seek out someone to recognize what you have done? Do you ever find your value from the esteem of others? This is the quest for fame. For some of us, this is what takes first place before God.

**Opener:** What were your takeaways from the sermon on Sunday?

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What do you think **you** are most known for? How did you get this reputation?
2. What do you think is the drive for us, as human beings, to want recognition and fame? What do we believe it gains for us?
3. Jesus explains in Mark 10:42-45 that there are two understandings for human greatness: Either we become great by holding others down or we become great by holding others up. Share with the group where you see yourself on that paradigm.
4. Jesus stooped from the highest place to the lowest place in order to recognize us as his prized possession. How does this begin and continue to free you from your idol of earthly recognition and fame? What happens when we stop settling for the temporary recognition of the world and start embracing the eternal recognition of the Father?
5. How might a person's freedom from earthly recognition and fame enable him/her to be on mission for the Gospel in their home, job, school, etc?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

## ALL CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **2022 Bible Reading Plan: Psalms 1-75.** Get your bookmark with the reading plan in guest services.
- **For the Men:** On Sunday, May 8, Mother's Day, we'd like to invite the guys to serve all of the ladies! It's a day where we want the ladies to feel seen, cared for and honored. Click the link to see the ways you can do that: <https://form.jotform.com/221146397242151>