

## BUCKET OF CRABS

**Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. - Mark 10:43-44**



As a boy growing up on Moloka'i with my grandfather, crabbing at night was a favorite time spent together on the beach behind his home. We dug a hole and placed a bucket in it, then went to catch some of the white crabs that were on the sandy shore. As we caught a few of the *pāpa'i*, we placed them in the bucket and as they tried to escape, they made a "scratching" sound with their legs against the interior wall of the bucket. Each crab tried to get out by climbing on other crabs to get to the top and eventually, out of the bucket. This sound would attract more crabs, until we had enough for the both of us. This crab concept was first expressed by *King Kalākaua*. A bucket of crabs climbing on top of each other, each pulling each other down in the process. It exposed existing resentments to those who have "made it" or even, how that person made it to the top, by stepping on others. These feelings remained even in times of prosperity when no effort was made to help the needs of those left behind.

As Jesus journeyed towards Jerusalem, He spoke of His coming death and resurrection, but His disciples misunderstood. Like the *pāpa'i*, James and John came to Jesus with a request that they might have the top positions in the kingdom (Matt. 20:20-21; Mk. 10:35-37). They thought mainly of an earthly kingdom of political power. Unfortunately, this is not the first time Jesus had to address this topic of greatness. When His disciples were discussing who was the greatest among them (Mk. 9:33-34), Jesus warned them that whoever wants to be first will be last and servant of all. Although He never condemns them for wanting to be great, He directs them to true greatness and the path to achieve it. "*Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.*" (Mk.10:43-44) In other words, THE WAY UP THE LADDER IS DOWN BECAUSE IT STARTS ON YOUR KNEES. Service for Christians is a mandate from God. There is no such thing in the Bible as a saint who doesn't serve because the measure of our service is Christ Himself. True greatness is when God recognizes your heart to serve. There is a story about four people named, *Everybody*, *Somebody*, *Nobody* and *Anybody*. One day, there was an important job to be done and *Everybody* was sure that *Somebody* would do it. *Anybody* could have done it, but *Nobody*, did it. *Somebody* got angry about that because it was *Everybody's* job. *Everybody* thought *Anybody* could do it, but *Nobody* realized that *Everybody* wouldn't do it. It ended up that *Everybody* blamed *Somebody* when *Nobody* did what *Anybody* could do.

My friend let's recognize that Jesus isn't waiting for *Everybody*, *Somebody*, *Anybody*, and *Nobody*, instead, He offers Himself. He is our hero and model of greatness that makes humbling ourselves to serve become our ambition. Our Lord is the greatest of all, having humbled Himself in taking on the form of a bond servant. He became obedient to death, even the ultimate humiliation--the death on a cross. Philippians 2:5-11 says that God has exalted Jesus Christ as Lord of the "bucket" (universe). "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." (Mk.10:45)