

Mark 10:28-52 –11 July 2021

“Fulfilling Our Call To Serve”

Introduction

*Jesus has traveled for 3 years teaching & now He’s begun to reveal His true mission to die to His disciples

*Mark 9 is His last week in northern Israel (Galilee)

*Mark 10 He spends time in Perea east of the Jordan

*Mark 11 Jesus goes to Jerusalem for last week of His life on earth before His death (Hint: He comes back)

*In Perea in 1st half of Mark 10, 3 types of people approached Jesus: The worshipper (who knows they can’t earn salvation), the worker (trying to earn salvation), and the wonderful (thinking they’ve already earned salvation)

Question then becomes, “If I can’t earn my way into eternal life, then how do I correctly grow & progress as a Christian?”

Let’s look at 3 things that define what effective Christian service look like?

#1 – Effective Christian service involves Leaving & Cleaving (Vs 28-34)

Intro

1. Leaving in that we forget self & earthly pursuits
2. Cleaving in that we cling to God during persecution and trials that come
3. Think spiritual not earthly

Read Vs 28

1. This is on the heels of Jesus telling the rich, young ruler that in order to know he has eternal life he must forsake his dependence on stuff & place his trust in God alone, not self
2. Peter positions himself as one who's done that

Read Vs 29-31

1. If you suffer loss of earthly pursuits & relationships, you WILL receive fresh new pursuits & relationships

- a. Houses – If you leave your home to pursue sharing the Gospel, you'll receive a new home
 - b. Family – If you leave relationships with family members b/c of living for God, you'll receive new Christian family members
 - c. Lands – If you leave a job or career, you'll receive a new godly mission
 - d. End of vs 30 – The ultimate reward is eternal life with our great King
2. But notice vs 30 - It's a double-edged sword, b/c it comes w/ persecution and trials
- a. The world & those serving it will hate you for leaving them
 - b. Read John 16:33 – The trouble of this world is temporary b/c Jesus has conquered the authority of this world – cleave to Jesus

Read Vs 31

- 1. Parable of landowner & worker – God rewards in unusual, but gracious ways.

Read Vs 32-34

1. Jesus is telling them that He's their example of what He just taught them
 - a. Jesus just left all to come here
 - i. Jesus left behind the wonder & beauty of heaven and glory
 - b. Jesus is cleaving to His Father b/c of the coming great persecutions
2. Notice the end of vs 34 – “Third day He shall rise again”
 - a. Jesus has His eyes on the goal and pursuit of your soul
 - b. On our way thru life, thru the messes, remember the prize at the end...it's real!
 - c. “Who can mind the journey, when the road leads home?”

#2 – Effective Christian service Isn't a Position but a Pattern (Vs 35-45)

Intro

1. Not a position to order others into service
2. It's a pattern of ordering yourself into service
3. Think downward not upward

Read Vs 35-37

1. Matthew records spokesperson was their mom
2. They're seeking a powerful position of influence
3. They believe that it takes position to promote God's plans and purposes. But does it?

Read Vs 38-40

1. Cup & baptism are symbols of suffering & death
 - a. There's a cost to become the greatest
 - b. The cost is a life of complete self-sacrifice for the advance of the knowledge of Jesus
2. "We can" they say – They haven't yet learned that relying on self doesn't lead to greatness

- a. By the times we get to Acts 12 (about 12 yrs later) James has learned of true service
 - i. He's martyred & gives his life for Christ
- b. John sits as an old man in (Read) Rev 1:5-6 & writes of Jesus' work & glory, not his own
- c. Both greatly served, but neither b/c they had great position living as Kingdom citizens here on earth

Read Vs 41-44

- 1. Minister, worker, servant – Many today say w/ pride, “I’m the Minister” as if to say, respect me.
 - a. Ministers expect to be treated as servants
 - b. Ministers are willing to place themselves below other's rights
- 2. Leadership in the Kingdom is by the greatest ministers that give the most

Read Vs 45

- 1. Follow Jesus lead – He's given a pattern of service
- 2. Is your life characterized by serving other or are other's needs an inconvenience?

#3 – Effective Christian service Isn't Seeking Your Will, But God's Will (Vs 46-52)

Intro

1. Your will is innately bias toward self-promotion
2. God's will is directed at helping everyone
3. Think outward not inward
4. Here we have the story of blind Bartimaeus

Read Vs 46-47

1. Scriptural Contradiction?
 - a. Matt 20 – 2 blind men, Mark 10 – blind Bartimaeus, Luk 18 – 1 blind man
 - b. They all go together, different accounts just emphasis different points
2. His ask was that of mercy, not merit
 - a. It was an ask of faith in the Messiah
 - b. He placed his faith in the right substance

Read Vs 48

1. He was relentless in his faith in Jesus

Read Vs 49-50

1. Jesus is willing to be interrupted...for people
 - a. Remember Jesus is headed into the last week of His life (before His death) & has BIG things on his mind
 - b. Yet there's always time for compassion
2. Bartimaeus cast away his past life, b/c he knew he wouldn't need it ever again
 - a. This goes back to our first point that serving Jesus will have you leave your past & cleave to God
 - b. As Matthew left his tax booth, what have you left?

Read Vs 51-52

1. The solution for Bartimaeus was that he placed his faith in the right thing, Jesus the Messiah
2. This is Jesus who will be praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Not My will, but Yours."
3. Jesus always did the will of the Father (John 8)
4. Will you give what you have to help others?

Conclusion

Do you want to follow Jesus where He's going? How do we fulfill our call to serve?

1. **It involves Leaving & Cleaving**

- a. You can't serve two masters – Leave this world & it's pursuits behind
- b. It gets harder (for a short time) before it gets better (forever) – Cleave to God our Rock

2. **It isn't a Position but a Pattern**

- a. You don't need a position of authority to influence people for Christ
- b. Just need a pattern of service & kindness

3. **It isn't seeking Your Will, but God's Will**

- a. Even with BIG things on your mind don't develop 'tunnel-vision' & miss the people around you
- b. Even while going hard after godly goals, keep a look out for God to bring unexpected things into your life that only you can help w/